Too little power in wind — pages 10-11

Environment & Climate News

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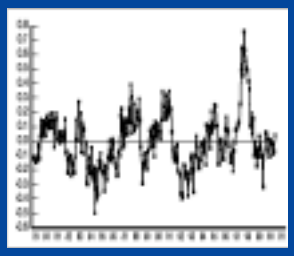
Is *this* global warming?



Each month, *Earth Track* updates the global averaged monthly satellite measurements of the Earth's temperature. *See page 12*

Whitman delays, alters Clinton arsenic standards

President George W. Bush accompanies EPA Administrator Christie Whitman and Secretary of State Colin Powell after a news conference in the Rose Garden. On April 18, Whitman had announced the administration would delay developing new standards for arsenic in drinking water until February next year. *Photo/Stephen Jaffe-AFP*

BY DIANE CAROL BAST

The Bush administration announced in late March it would withdraw new rules, proposed during former President Bill Clinton's final days in office, that sharply limit arsenic levels in drinking water. EPA Administrator Christine Todd Whitman elaborated on that decision in mid-April.

Whitman's April 18 announcement indicated she would seek a postponement of a mid-summer deadline Congress had set for the agency to develop new arsenic rules. The administration wants to delay its new standards until February 2002, after the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) has had an opportunity to review new studies on arsenic's health effects.

Whitman aides said the new rule would become effective in 2006, the same year the Clinton standards were to have taken effect.

Science review needed

"The Bush administration is committed to protecting the environment and the health of all Americans," Whitman said in her April 18 statement. "Today we are taking action to ensure that a standard will be put in place in a timely manner that provides clean, safe, and

ARSENIC continued on page 18

Climate change impact on human health called 'highly uncertain'

Even though it is understood that climate and weather play a role in some disease outbreaks, it is not yet possible to determine whether a long-term global warming trend will actually cause diseases to spread, says a new report released in April by the National Academies' National Research Council.

While some studies have shown an association between short-term climate variability, such as that caused by El Niño, and a higher incidence of certain illnesses, many other factors must be considered to fully account for the spread of infectious diseases, said the report's authors.

"The potential exists for scientists one day to be able to predict the impact of global climate change on disease, but that day is not yet here," said committee chair Donald Burke, professor of international health and epidemiology at Johns Hopkins School of Public Health, Baltimore.

Since the time of Hippocrates, scientists have understood that weather can influence where and when some epidemics occur. For instance, mosquito-borne diseases such as dengue, malaria, and yellow fever are generally associated with warm weather, while influenza epidemics usually occur during cold weather; outbreaks of intestinal illnesses caused by cryptosporidiosis are linked to heavy rainfall. In recent years, questions have been posed as to what effect a long-

HEALTH continued on page 7

Congress considers property rights protections, wise use plans

Grassroots advocates of private property rights and wise use of federal lands had little to cheer about during the Clinton administration's eight-year reign. That may be changing, according to correspondent Chuck Cushman, president of the American Land Rights Association - Land Rights Network.

BY CHUCK CUSHMAN

The early days of the 107th Congress are shaping up as far more friendly to property rights advocates than the past several years. Several members of Congress have introduced, or plan to introduce, bills that will help property owners and promote wise use of federal lands. Here are five examples.

Limiting federal land ownership

On February 14, Senator Craig Thomas (R-Wyoming) introduced S. 322, the No Net Loss of Private Land Act, which proposes to limit federal land acquisition in all states in which 25 percent or more of the land is already

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For more information...

WWW The full text of S. 322 can be found on the Internet at **http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgibin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=107_cong_bills&docid=f:s322is.txt.pdf**

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NEWS-NEWS-NEWS

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Moratorium angers environmentalists

Last November, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service issued a moratorium on new listings of alleged endangered species, saying their resources were being drained fighting lawsuits from environmental groups. The *Washington Post* reported "the move has inflamed disputes over tactics within the environmental movement. It also spotlighted a serious budget quandary for Congress and the Bush administration, and reopened long-running debates about the costs and benefits of the Endangered Species Act."

Interior Secretary Gale Norton, who now oversees USFWS, once argued in a brief before the Supreme Court that the law is an unconstitutional infringement of private property rights. In her new position, Norton says she will enforce the law but will not use the heavy-handed tactics of past administrations, because doing so alienates landowners.

Photo by Tom Reese, Seattle Times

For more information...

WWW On these stories and more, point your Web browser to the Liberty Matters news site at **www.libertymatters.org**.

USFWS claims much of its budget and time is being spent responding to and complying with the barrage of litigation filed by green groups trying to force the designation of critical habitat for species. The agency contends resources are better spent protecting species already listed.

The green groups are suing to overturn November's moratorium on new listings.

Eco-terrorists strike again

The Earth Liberation Front has promised to step up its activities to free Mother Earth from the chains of civilization. The shadowy group has claimed responsibility for a fire in Tulare County, California, that burned a warehouse containing large quantities of genetically engineered cottonseeds.

The ELF email message taking responsibility for the arson reads in part, "…this seed will no longer exist to contaminate the environment, enrich a sick corporation, or contribute to its warped research programs."

Local authorities have not yet determined if the group is really responsible; ELF spokesmen say the group's involvement in terrorist acts is often discounted, and later found to be true.

ELF also announced it has spiked trees in the Umpqua National Forest's Judie Timber Sale, near Eugene, Oregon. Officials have been unable to confirm the boast because crews have not been able to reach the area due to heavy snow cover.

Tree spiking is a particularly heinous act of terrorism. It puts forest loggers cutting the trees, as well as those working in sawmills, in extreme danger. Spikes and nails can seriously harm both workers and equipment.

Drop that frog

The frog police always get their man, as John J. Zentner will attest.

Zentner, a California environmental consultant, pleaded guilty to relocating 60 red-legged frogs and 500 tadpoles from a development site to a safe pond, where they are thriving. The federal Department of Justice demanded Zentner spend 10 days in jail and pay a $10,000 personal fine, in addition to a $65,000 fine levied on his company. A local judge reduced Zentner's penalty to 200 hours community service.

The feds charged Zentner moved the frogs to save his clients the huge expense involved in construction delay. Zentner's attorney disagreed, noting that if his client merely wanted to expedite construction, "There was obviously a blatantly wrong alternative, which was to allow the frogs to be bulldozed into oblivion."

On March 6, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service designated a staggering 4.1 million acres of the state of California as critical habitat for the frog, made famous by Mark Twain in an 1865 short story, "The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County." A new layer of regulations now exists across 4 percent of the state, including 2.8 million acres of private land where the frogs don't even live—it's "potential" habitat.

"Interior Secretary Gale Norton, who now oversees USFWS, once argued in a brief before the Supreme Court that the [Endangered Species Act] is an unconstitutional infringement of private property rights."

Homebuilders plan to challenge the federal government in court, claiming there is a critical need for more housing and projecting the habitat designation will reduce housing construction by 5 percent and take a $2.2 billion bite out of the Bay Area economy.

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Panelists say access to federal lands could cure energy woes

BY LARISA EPATKO

Any national energy policy adopted by the federal government should allow increased development of energy resources on federal lands, urged a gathering of western governors and industry experts at a House Resources Committee hearing held March 7. They assured the Congressmen in attendance that new technologies allow such resource development to be done in an environmentally responsible way.

Energy proponents are looking to make federal agencies more open to oil, gas, coal, and hydropower development, including altering some Clinton administration initiatives that put many areas off-limits to such uses. Ranking Resources Committee member Nick Rahall (D-West Virginia) noted, however, that "natural gas and coal production from federal leases was at an all-time high during the Clinton administration, surpassing the amount produced during the Reagan years, let alone Bush the first.

"According to Alaska Governor Tony Knowles, ANWR drilling would create thousands of jobs, lessen U.S. dependence on foreign oil, and reduce fuel prices."

"I become somewhat puzzled," he continued, "when I hear talk about opening more federal lands to energy development."

Rather than dwelling on that contentious debate, he continued, more focus should be given to constructing a congressionally authorized natural gas pipeline from Alaska's North Slope to help answer energy needs.

Giving states a role

Drilling in the 1.5-million-acre coastal plain of the 19-million-acre ANWR was one of the major topics of discussion at the March 7 hearing. Environmentalists oppose development of the site because, they say, drilling would hurt caribou, polar bears, other wildlife, and the landscape itself.

Alaska Governor Tony Knowles disagreed, saying ANWR drilling would create thousands of jobs, lessen U.S. dependence on foreign oil, and reduce fuel prices. Drilling could be done with "special precautions" for the area's wildlife, he said.

Knowles said practices at nearby Prudhoe Bay demonstrate the oil industry's ability to develop with minimal environmental impacts. They can use smaller-than-usual pads to drill diagonal wells that reach a broader area underground, he noted, and can confine their activity to the winter months, when equipment can move over ice slabs, which then melt in the summer and lessen the operation's "footprint."

Wyoming Governor Jim Geringer stressed at the hearing the importance of finding energy solutions to continue upward economic trends. He said much of the federal lands in the West contain energy reserves, but Clinton-era land use decisions have impeded access, stymying efforts to reach those reserves.

Federal agencies should more actively involve state governments in policy decisions, Geringer said, perhaps by granting them the rarely used "cooperating agency" status under the National Environmental Policy Act, which would put them on a more equal footing with the federal agencies.

Oil and gas industry experts testified that federal policies restricting companies' access to public lands generally are based on past events and do not take into account new technologies.

Seeking multiple use

When evaluating access to federal lands, Congress should first look at areas where development used to occur but is now restricted, said Neal Stanley, testifying on behalf of the Independent Petroleum Association of Mountain States and the Independent Petroleum Association of America. Jim Bowles, of the American Petroleum Institute, concurred. Energy developers aren't looking to drill in wilderness areas or parks, he said, but seek access to lands already designated for "multiple uses."

Federal agencies also should be given a clear mandate on how to weigh energy development against other uses. Agency officials do not now consider how their policy decisions affect energy sustainability, said Stanley. Bowles agreed, noting national energy policy should recognize that a long-term solution requires:

- increasing all forms of energy;
- being flexible enough to allow companies to "adapt to new energy and environmental challenges";
- "encouraging competitive trade practices and international investment";
- and creating a stable regulatory environment for investors.

Terry O'Connor, testifying on behalf of the National Mining Association, pointed out that some Clinton administration initiatives—such as the Forest Service's roadless rule, scheduled to go into effect May 12—would hinder access to coal reserves. The Bush administration is currently reviewing that rule, along with several others that would impact uses of federal lands.

Clinton's national monument designations also garnered criticism. O'Connor singled out the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument in Utah, which withdrew major coal reserves from productive use.

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Photo/Michael Smith-Newsmakers

Proposed regulation will curtail snowmobile use

BY JAY LEHR

The National Park Service's proposal to close Rocky Mountain National Park to snowmobiles except for a two-mile stretch of the North Supply Creek Access Trail is unjustified, according to a public interest comment submitted to the agency by the Mercatus Center at George Mason University.

Currently, snowmobile use is limited to 18 linear miles out of the 414 square miles of the Park. The Park Service suggests further reducing snowmobile use to two miles is required by Executive Orders 11644 and 11989, which state that recreational snowmobile use should be disallowed within a national park if it causes adverse effects on park resources.

"The proposal actually ignores an important part of Executive Order 11644, however, which requires agencies to minimize conflicts among all users of public lands," said Randy T. Simmons, a professor at Utah State University and the author of the comment on behalf of the Mercatus Center's Regulatory Studies Program.

"The proposal minimizes conflicts by simply outlawing one use—that of snowmobiles. Furthermore, the National Park Service doesn't provide any peer-reviewed data to support the claim that snowmobile use harms the environmental, cultural, or historic resources of Rocky Mountain National Park."

Simmons points out that sharply curtailing snowmobile use violates the park's Organic Act, which states the park was created "for the benefit and enjoyment of the people of the United States . . . with regulations being primarily aimed at the freest use of said park for recreation purposes by the public and for the preservation of the natural conditions and scenic beauties."

"[S]harply curtailing snowmobile use violates the [Rocky Mountain National Park]'s Organic Act, which states the park was created 'for the benefit and enjoyment of the people of the United States . . .'"

"Over 4,000 snowmobilers currently use the Park each year, yet the National Park Service has based its ban on the benefits to non-motorized park recreationists, without considering the lost recreational value to snowmobilers," observed Susan E. Dudley, senior research fellow at the Mercatus Center. "Professor Simmons has identified several options for addressing the conflicts between different users that do not involve simply assuming one user's values are superior to another's."

The comment suggests several alternatives to the Park Service's prohibition, including designated no-motorized-noise days and charging different prices for different recreational uses. Dudley recommends those alternatives be considered in addressing all current and future proposals to amend snowmobile regulations in national parks around the country.

For more information...

WWW The Mercatus Center at George Mason University is an education, research, and outreach program that works with scholars, policy experts, and government officials to bridge academic theory and real-world practice. For more information, visit the group's Web site at **http://www.mercatus.org.**

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IPCC report criticized by one of its lead authors

Politics, not science, drives the United Nations' work on climate change, warns Dr. Richard Lindzen, one of the world's leading atmospheric physicists

BY PAUL GEORGIA

The *Third Assessment Report* (TAR) of the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), expected to be released sometime in 2001, is already coming under heavy criticism from various directions. But none has been more devastating than the one delivered on March 1 by one of the report's lead authors.

Dr. Richard S. Lindzen, the Alfred P. Sloan professor of meteorology at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and one of the world's leading atmospheric scientists, told a standing-room only audience at a briefing sponsored by the Cooler Heads Coalition in the U.S. Senate Environment Committee Room, that the IPCC process is driven by politics rather than science.

What are some of the problems with the IPCC process, according to Lindzen? It uses summaries to misrepresent what scientists say. It uses language that means different things to scientists and laymen. It exploits public ignorance over quantitative matters. It exploits what scientists can agree on, while ignoring disagreements, to support the global warming agenda. And it exaggerates scientific accuracy and certainty and the authority of undistinguished scientists.

No consensus here

The "most egregious" problem with the IPCC's forthcoming report, said Lindzen, "is that it is presented as a consensus that involves hundreds, perhaps thousands, of scientists . . . and none of them was asked if they agreed with anything in the report except for the one or two pages they worked on."

Indeed, most press accounts covering the January release of the TAR's "Summary for Policymakers" characterized the report as the work of 2,000 (3,000 in some instances) of the world's leading climate scientists. IPCC's emphasis, however, isn't on getting qualified scientists, but on getting representatives from over 100 countries, said Lindzen. The truth is only a handful of countries do quality climate research. Most of the so-called experts served merely to pad the numbers.

"It is no small matter," said Lindzen, "that routine weather service functionaries from New Zealand to Tanzania are referred to as 'the world's leading climate scientists.' It should come as no surprise that they will be determinedly supportive of the process."

"Under the IPCC review process, . . . authors are at liberty to ignore criticisms. After having his review comments ignored by the IPCC in 1990 and 1995, Lindzen asked to have his name removed from the list of reviewers. The group refused."

The IPCC clearly uses the Summary for Policymakers to misrepresent what is in the report, said Lindzen. He gave an example from the chapter he worked on, chapter 7, addressing physical processes.

The 35-page chapter, said Lindzen, pointed out many problems with the way climate computer models treat specific physical processes, such as water vapor, clouds, ocean currents, and so on. Clouds and water vapor in clouds, for example, are badly misrepresented in the models. The physics are all wrong, he said. Those things the models do well are irrelevant to the all-important feedback effects.

"The treatment of water vapor in clouds is crucial to models producing a lot of warming," explained Lindzen. "Without them [positive feedbacks], no model would produce much warming."

The IPCC summarizes the 35-page chapter in one sentence: "Understanding of climate processes and their incorporation in climate models have improved, including water vapor, sea dynamics and ocean heat transport."

That, said Lindzen, does not summarize the chapter at all. "That is why a lot of us have said that the document itself is informative; the summary is not."

Lindzen briefly discussed a paper he published in the March 2001 issue of the *Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society*, clarifying the water vapor feedback issue. Using detailed daily measurements, Lindzen and his coauthors from NASA showed that cloud cover in the tropics diminishes as temperatures rise, cooling the planet by allowing more heat to escape.

"The effect observed," said Lindzen, "is sufficient such that if current models are absolutely correct, except for missing this, models that predict between 1.5 and 4.5 degrees warming go down to about .4 to 1.2 degrees warming."

Not the way science is done

The IPCC claims its report is peer-reviewed, which simply isn't true, Lindzen said. Under true peer-review, he explained, a panel of reviewers must accept a study before it can be published in a scientific journal. If the reviewers have objections, the author must answer them or change the article to take reviewers' objections into account.

Under the IPCC review process, by contrast, the authors are at liberty to ignore criticisms. After having his review comments ignored by the IPCC in 1990 and 1995, Lindzen asked to have his name removed from the list of reviewers. The group refused.

The IPCC has resorted to using scenario-building in its policymakers' summary to paint a frightening picture not supported by the science, Lindzen charged. Ignoring the science allows the IPCC to build a scenario, for example, that assumes man will burn 300 years' worth of coal in 100 years. They plug that into the most sensitive climate model available and arrive at a truly frightening global warming scenario.

"People wouldn't normally take that very seriously," said Lindzen, "but I think the IPCC understands the media will report the top number. I don't think, any longer, that this is unintentional."

The IPCC also exploits what scientists do agree on to support its agenda, according to Lindzen. For example, Lindzen said, scientists can more-or-less live with the idea conveyed in the IPCC report that everything is connected to everything else, and everything is uncertain.

But politicians and environmentalists take this very minimal area of agreement, and then claim that anything can cause anything and we must act to stop it.

"The IPCC has resorted to using scenario-building in its policymakers' summary to paint a frightening picture not supported by the science, Lindzen charged."

Scientists agree, for example, that atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases have increased over the last 100 years. They also generally agree the climate has warmed slightly. Uncertainties remain, however, regarding even those basic propositions. Contrary to the impression given by the IPCC, there is no widespread agreement on what these two "facts" mean for mankind. Yet they are deemed by the IPCC sufficient to justify precipitous action.

Fun with numbers

Perhaps Lindzen's most devastating critique is aimed at the IPCC's use of statistics.

The IPCC's infamous hockey stick graph, for example, shows global temperatures have been stable or falling over the last 1,000 years, and that only in the industrial age has there been an unnatural warming of the planet. But if you look at the margin of error in that graph, "You can no longer maintain that statement," said Lindzen.

"There's little doubt, Lindzen said, that the IPCC process has become politicized to the point of uselessness. He advised U.S. policymakers simply to ignore it."

Lindzen also noted the margin of error used in the IPCC report is much smaller, a 60 percent confidence level, than traditionally used by scientists, who generally report results at the 95 or even 99 percent confidence level. The IPCC is thus publicizing results much less likely to be correct than scientific research is generally expected to be.

To illustrate his point, Lindzen showed estimates of some of the most precise numbers in physics with their error bars. He showed different measurements of the speed of light, for instance, from 1929 to the 1980s. The error bars for the estimated speed of light in 1932 and

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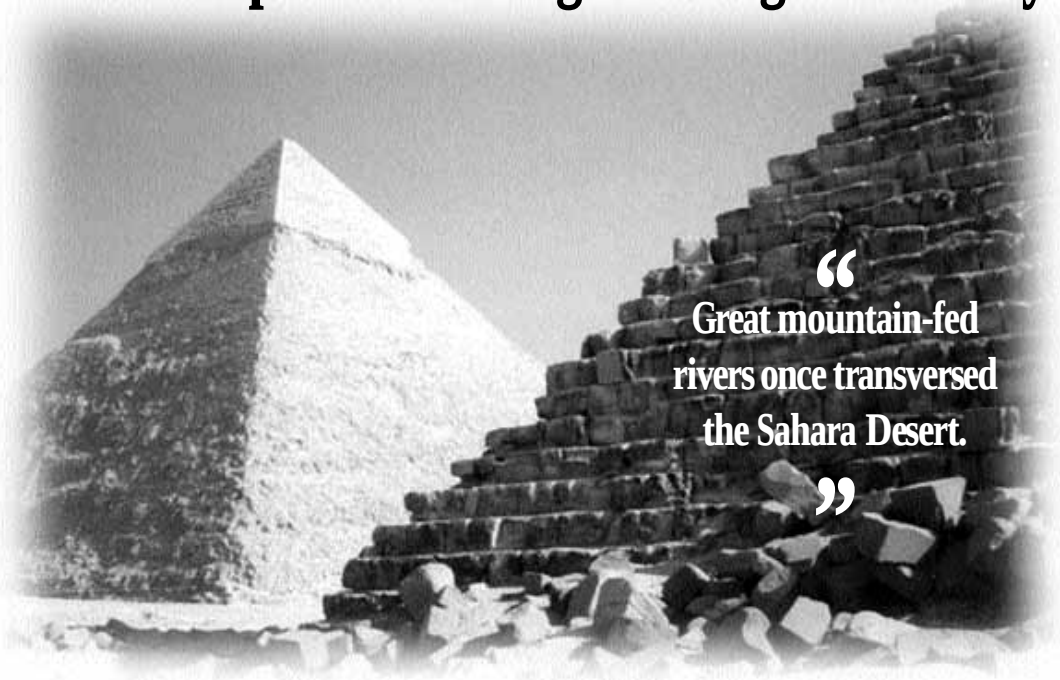
Global temperature changes throughout history



BY DR. WILLIAM GRIERSON

Nearly a century ago, Svante Arrhemis showed CO_2 is a "greenhouse gas" that transmits short-wave radiation from the sun but impedes long-wave (heat) radiation from the Earth's surface.

Any possibly deleterious effects on global temperatures from mankind's generation of CO_2 are very minor, however, in comparison with the sun's dominant effects—short-term, through sunspots, and longer-term due to irregularities in its axis. Add to those natural effects a gradual, but inexorable, change in the tilt of the Earth's own axis, and the precession of the equinoxes that so puzzled ancient astronomers.

Moreover, the climatic influence of the sun involves other variables: some as obvious as solar flares, and others as arcane as very minor irregularities in its orbit that mathematical astronomers are only now beginning to explain.

Long before modern instrumentation, sunspots could be studied with no more equipment than a piece of smoked glass, isinglass (a gelatin prepared from fish bladders), or other animal membrane. The ancient Chinese left written records of their sunspot observations. Sunspots come and go, but they persist for long periods. Galileo used them to time the rotation of the sun.

Mean Earth temperatures vary directly with the number of sunspots. In 1922, an English lady, Annie Maunder, correlated sunspot frequency with climatic records. When sunspots almost disappeared, a period known as the Maunder Minimum, the Northern Hemisphere suffered the "Little Ice Age."

From about 1500 to 1900 AD sunspots were few, with intermittent minima—during one of which England's Thames River froze, and another when George Washington's army had the misfortune to be encamped at Valley Forge.

"When Mount Krakatoa blew up in 1883, it lowered mean global temperature 0.27˚C (0.5˚F). The amounts of industrially released CO_2 are minor compared with those from such natural forces."

Evidence of the "Little Ice Age," and also of the "Little Climatic Optimum" 500 years before, still lingers in deep rock temperatures.

Within the larger sunspot cycle is a minor, rather consistent, approximately 11-year, cycle. Curious evidence of this is afforded by the trading records of Canada's Hudson Bay fur company. Rhythmic fluctuations in the populations of prey animals, primarily arctic hares and lemmings, are echoed one year later in increases in pelts taken from carnivores, particularly the valuable white fox.

Geological evidence indicates wide variations in mean temperatures and CO_2 levels in past interglacial and even postglacial, Holocene, periods. Some have been correlated with volcanic activity or meteor showers. Archeology now indicates the collapse of some major Bronze Age civilizations was due to droughts associated with volcanic eruptions.

When Mount Krakatoa blew up in 1883, it lowered mean global temperature 0.27˚C (0.5˚F). The amounts of industrially released CO_2 are minor compared with those from such natural forces.

History shows warming to be a good thing

Moderate global warming is not necessarily harmful. During the eleventh century sunspot maximum (the "Little Climatic Optimum"), Greenland supported a thriving farming community, as did the Orkney Islands. During the "Little Ice Age" the Greenlanders died and the Orkney Islanders struggled to survive. With today's sunspot plenitude, the Orkneys have become Scotland's major beef-producing county, though green pastures have yet to return to Greenland.

Supposed scientific calculations and much popular alarmism predict that a few degrees of global warming will cause disastrous flooding of many coastal areas and the complete disappearance of low-lying Pacific Islands, due to melting of the polar icecaps. History shows otherwise.

During the 1,000 year cycle that included the "Little Climatic Optimum" and the "Little Ice Age," sea levels did not change materially. Some ice-freed coasts rose, some coastlines eroded and others accreted, and occasionally coastal subsidence became threatening. London is an example of the latter phenomenon. The considerable engineering feat of the Thames Barrier has been necessitated by slight, but inexorable, land subsidence and occasional coincidence of an abnormally high spring tide with a very strong northeast wind. Apparently even minor temperature changes can have drastic effects, due to their influence on the winds.

The El Niño phenomenon has had much publicity of late, though it is nothing new: El Niño evidence appears in coral growth records going back over 100,000 years, and by ocean and lake sediments for shorter periods. The apparent warming of hundreds of cubic miles of Pacific Ocean water is not due to enormous amounts of added heat, but to the failure of the trade winds that normally push the sun-warmed water toward the Philippines and Indonesia, without which they suffer devastating droughts.

Ground-penetrating radar shows great mountain-fed rivers once transversed the Sahara Desert. Cave paintings and rock carvings prove that 8,000 years ago the Sahara was verdant and teeming with tropical wildlife. Such a scenario is now impossible with today's wind patterns.

Weigh costs, benefits

We humans should curtail, of course, any practices deleterious to the environment . . . wherever it is possible to do so without incurring unacceptable human and economic consequences. However, any climatic effects we might cause by our consumption of fossil fuels, and the resultant emissions of CO_2, are trivial by comparison with Nature's inexorable forces.

The phenomenon of global temperature change has become an international concern of quite extraordinary magnitude.

Despite objections from many reputable scientists, both individually and collectively, this has generated a popular media-driven controversy . . . with consequent proposals for economically disastrous measures to reduce emissions of carbon dioxide (CO_2), in order to maintain the status quo for worldwide temperatures.

Apart from the notable disregard for scientific findings in many fields of endeavor, this is hubris in the classical Greek sense of arrogance that would challenge the gods.

A retired University of Florida agricultural scientist, Dr. William Grierson likes to apply his knowledge of science to his lifetime interest in history and archaeology.

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1940 do not even *include* the value we think is the correct speed of light today. "Error bars should not be taken lightly," warned Lindzen. "There is genuine uncertainty in them."

Incentives matter

"Scientists are human beings," Lindzen concluded, "subject to normal instincts and weaknesses." They respond to incentives just like everyone else. "Current government funding creates incentives to behave poorly by maintaining the relevance of the subject," he said, noting that on some issues financial support for science depends on "alarming the world."

Indeed, Lindzen noted, Mario Molina and Sherwood Rowland were awarded the 1995 Nobel Prize in chemistry for their work on ozone depletion—not for alerting the world, but for "alarming" it. "You don't want scientists to get hooked on this as the key to fame and glory," he warned.

There's little doubt, Lindzen said, that the IPCC process has become politicized to the point of uselessness. He advised U.S. policymakers simply to ignore it.

Paul Georgia is an environmental policy analyst with the Competitive Enterprise Institute in Washington, DC and managing editor of the Cooler Heads newsletter.

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Photo by Newsmakers/Getty

Bush stands his ground on CO_2

Swayed by science—or at least, by the fact that the science about "global warming" is by no means settled—President George W. Bush has decided not to pursue mandatory reductions in carbon dioxide (CO_2) output.

Environmental activists have tried for several years to portray carbon dioxide—an inert gas that comprises a great portion of the Earth's atmosphere—as a "pollutant" that must be regulated to combat "global warming." Since CO_2 is, among other things, a byproduct of the burning of fossil fuels and industrial activity, significant reductions of man-made CO_2 output would entail dramatic cutbacks in energy usage and industrial activity with potentially massive negative economic impacts.

"Reducing U.S. output of CO_2 to below 1990 levels—as advocated by Gore and enshrined in the Clinton administration's Kyoto Protocol global warming treaty—would likely precipitate major economic dislocations, perhaps even a worldwide depression."

"If you attempt to regulate carbon dioxide, you will regulate us into a permanent energy crisis in this country," said Republican Sen. Larry Craig of Idaho, who along with a few other stalwart Republicans went to the mat on this issue, refusing to be cowed by political correctness or fear of being portrayed as "anti-environment." Said Craig: "I think they understand that at the White House now" . . . meaning, the practical consequences of appeasing radical environmentalists.

Indeed, it appears Bush has come to the altogether reasonable conclusion that the so-called "precautionary principle" is not a sound basis for establishing public policy that could affect the well-being of millions of people for the worse.

Simply put, the precautionary principle posits that steps be taken proactively to address a given risk, even if the risk is no more than theoretical. Environmentalists have been arguing that drastic precautionary steps be taken to deal with the purely theoretical bogeyman of human-caused catastrophic global warming. Bush has properly stepped back from this precipice.

Among the problems with global warming theory are the troubling incongruities between satellite data and measurements of temperature taken at ground-based stations. They contradict one another. The satellite data indicate an overall cooling trend, while some ground monitoring stations suggest a slight warming is taking place. Further complicating matters is the fact that most of the warming trend observed by scientists occurred in the early part of the last century—well before mass industrialization worldwide.

In any event, the entire theory of global warming that forms the basis of the argument for "wrenching changes" (former Vice President Al Gore's words) in our use of energy is based on vague computer models whose predictive value is dubious. There are simply too many variables.

Add to all of this the facts that many scientists believe we are just now emerging from a period of abnormally cool planetary temperatures (the so-called "Little Ice Age"), and that natural sources of CO_2 production far eclipse humanity's contribution, and you have, at minimum, ample reason to proceed with caution.

Reducing U.S. output of CO_2 to below 1990 levels—as advocated by Gore and enshrined in the Clinton administration's Kyoto Protocol global warming treaty—would likely precipitate major economic dislocations, perhaps even a worldwide depression. That's a stiff price to pay for a threat that may not even exist—or, if it does, may be caused by factors entirely beyond our control.

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Is Kyoto dead?

BY S. FRED SINGER

Well before President George W. Bush's decision to forego controls on carbon dioxide emissions from the burning of fossil fuels, many supporters of the Global Climate Treaty had expressed doubts about the targets and timetables of the Kyoto Protocol.

"It does not require a major government program to wean us away from fossil fuels. . . . Market forces eventually will phase out fossil fuels, and at a much lower cost to society than Kyoto would impose."

Critics included Resources for the Future, the Pew Center for Global Climate Change, and other environmental organizations. While European politicians were lambasting the United States after Bush's "Kyoto is dead" announcement, David Victor of the Council of Foreign Relations termed the Protocol "hopelessly unrealistic."

We agree; cutting energy consumption by 30 to 40 percent within a decade is practically unachievable. But beyond this, Kyoto is also ineffective. Enforcing its targets would reduce global temperature in 2050 by only 0.05˚C, a virtually undetectable amount.

Finally, Kyoto is politically unacceptable. President Bush, in opposing Kyoto as unfair to the United States and economically destructive—especially to low-income groups—is merely echoing the bipartisan Byrd-Hagel resolution that passed the Senate in 1997 by a vote of 95-0.

Kyoto's critics, however, still seem to believe there is a "scientific consensus" on global warming. But a National Academy of Sciences report last year reaffirmed that, contrary to theory, weather satellite data show little if any current warming of the global atmosphere.

Further, the unspoken assumption—that a (hypothetical) global warming would be damaging—is not supported by competent economists. Their published studies conclude GNP would increase, with agriculture and forestry benefitting the most. The real threat comes from a possible global cooling.

In any case, it does not require a major government program to wean us away from fossil fuels. As these become depleted and scarce, their price is bound to rise, making other forms of energy more competitive. Market forces eventually will phase out fossil fuels, and at a much lower cost to society than Kyoto would impose.

S. Fred Singer is professor emeritus of environmental sciences at the University of Virginia, a former director of the U.S. Weather Satellite Service, and president of the Science & Environmental Policy Project. He can be contacted by email at singer@sepp.org, or visit the group's Web site at http://www.sepp.org.

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HEALTH continued from page 1

term global warming trend might have on infectious disease patterns around the world, prompting numerous studies of climate-disease linkages.

Some of these studies have shown that climate variation from one season or year to the next can affect the life cycle of many pathogens and disease-carrying insects, potentially affecting the timing and intensity of disease outbreaks. A number of computer models have been developed as well to simulate the effects of climate change on disease incidence, but estimates of the extent to which diseases will potentially spread have varied significantly among some of the models.

In addition, observational and modeling studies generally are not able to consider complex social factors—such as sanitation and public health services, population density, and travel patterns—that also play important roles in disease dynamics. Because of this, the results of such studies must be interpreted with caution, especially when used to develop scenarios of the potential health effects of future climate change, the committee said.

The highly uncertain impact of long-term climate change on the spread of disease and on the evolution and emergence of new pathogens stems largely from the confounding influences of human behavioral adaptations and public health interventions. For instance, basic public health protections such as adequate housing and sanitation, as well as the availability of vaccines and drugs, can limit the geographic distribution of diseases regardless of climate.

For more information...

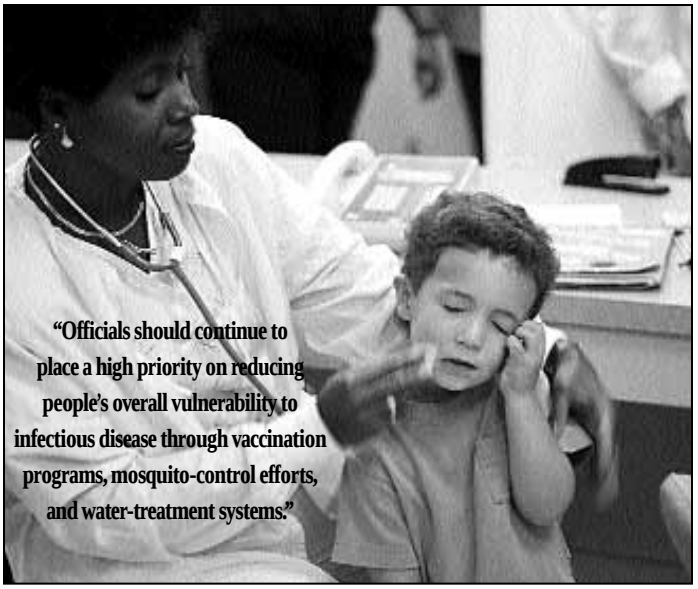
PHONE Copies of Under the Weather: Climate, Ecosystems, and Infectious Disease will be available this summer from the National Academy Press, 202/334-3313 or 800/624-6242.

One example of this is along the border between the United States and Mexico, where dengue fever outbreaks are common just south of the Rio Grande river in Mexico, but are rarely seen in neighboring regions just north of the river in the United States, mainly because of differences in socioeconomic conditions.

"Basic public health protections such as adequate housing and sanitation, as well as the availability of vaccines and drugs, can limit the geographic distribution of diseases regardless of climate."

The report also notes there are potential pitfalls in extrapolating climate and disease relationships from one time scale to another. For example, the ecological effects of short-term climate events, such as El Niño, may be significantly different from the ecological effects and social adaptations expected under long-term climate change.

Research to understand the relationship between climate and infectious disease is in its infancy and needs to be strengthened, the committee said. Interdisciplinary research centers should be established to foster collaboration among scientists in fields such as epidemiology, climatology, and ecology. And federal health agencies such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease should become actively involved in the U.S. Global Change Research Program, an organization that coordinates climate research among federal agencies.



"Officials should continue to place a high priority on reducing people's overall vulnerability to infectious disease through vaccination programs, mosquito-control efforts, and water-treatment systems."

As the potential linkages between climate and disease become better understood, it may be possible to provide early warnings to help prevent disease outbreaks, the committee said. To do this, climate forecasts will have to be complemented by ongoing meteorological, ecological, and epidemiological surveillance systems. Together, this information could be used to issue a "watch" for regions at risk and subsequent "warnings" as surveillance data confirm earlier projections.

The committee emphasized, however, that early warning systems should not take the place of proven public health measures, since there will always be some element of unpredictability in climate variations and disease outbreaks. Officials should continue to place a high priority on reducing people's overall vulnerability to infectious disease through vaccination programs, mosquito-control efforts, and water-treatment systems, it said.

The report was sponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Science Foundation, NASA, National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Geological Survey, U.S. Global Change Research Program, and the Electric Power Research Institute. The National Research Council is the principal operating arm of the National Academy of Sciences and National Academy of Engineering. It is a private, nonprofit institution that provides scientific and technical advice under a congressional charter.

Climate change policy could create the mother of all cartels

Bush has stood in the way of an army of diplomats and lobbyists whose ambition is to create a "carbon cartel"

BY BRIAN MANNIX

In the years ahead, President George W. Bush faces an army more menacing than Saddam Hussein's, which threatened to sweep down on all the oil fields in Arabia. By saying no to carbon dioxide caps, Bush has stood in the way of an army of diplomats and lobbyists whose ambition is to create a "carbon cartel," one that seeks to control all the carbon-based fuel—coal, oil, and gas—on the planet.

They do not call themselves a cartel, of course. They advocate some variant of the Kyoto global warming protocol, and claim they are trying to influence the climate and thereby save the planet. But the chance their proposals would have any measurable effect on climate is near zero. The driving force behind this movement is not any theoretical harm associated with carbon dioxide; it is the very real economic value associated with carbon-containing fuels.

While it has support from some industries, the carbon cartel is not, and never could be, an industry cartel. To operate on a global scale and enforce its restrictions on producers and consumers, such a cartel must be sponsored by governments, cooperating in an international forum like the United Nations. And it cannot succeed without the participation of the U.S. government.

Winners and losers abound

The profits potentially available to the carbon cartel are measured in tens of trillions of dollars. Those profits would take a variety of forms around the world: tax revenues to governments; bribes to government officials; valuable carbon "credits" and "allowances" that governments allocate to favored parties; and many, many jobs for diplomats, politicians, regulators, tax collectors, lawyers, and lobbyists. Other winners would include the industries that compete with carbon-based fuels: hydropower (mostly government-owned), nuclear (still a long-shot in the U.S.), and such "alternative" energy sources as windmills and solar.

The carbon cartel's organizers face a key challenge: how to allocate the spoils in a way that produces a winning and sustainable coalition. Right now the Kyoto formula favors Europe over the U.S.; we can expect to see concessions designed to bring the U.S. on board. These are likely to be designed specifically to influence U.S. politics: Some additional share of the booty will be made available to U.S. companies with perceived political influence, or to labor unions—perhaps the coal miners. Further concessions will be needed to bring countries like China and India on board. This is what is being negotiated in all those international meetings: not the world's climate, but the division of the carbon cartel's plunder.

"If the carbon cartel succeeds, it will cause direct economic damage on an unprecedented scale. More frightening, however, is the collateral damage it would inflict on our political institutions."

The big losers, of course, will be consumers everywhere. The carbon cartel is counting on the fact that the world's consumers are poorly informed and poorly organized. Right now Bush is their champion and protector, though few of them realize it and he may not fully appreciate it himself.

If the carbon cartel succeeds, it will cause direct economic damage on an unprecedented scale. More frightening, however, is the collateral damage it would inflict on our political institutions. It would corrupt the world's governments; set them in opposition to consumers and to free trade; seduce them into converting market economies into planned economies; and divert vast resources from productive uses to political ones.

History is not over. Despite its diplomatic demeanor and green garb, the carbon cartel is perhaps the greatest threat to freedom and prosperity that looms in the twenty-first century. In resisting it, President Bush has taken the high ground. Everyone who cares about the fate of the planet should help him hold it.

Brian Mannix is is director of science and technology at the Manufacturers Alliance, an industry-supported think tank in Arlington, Virginia.

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Hoof-and-mouth crisis shows how far we've come

BY THOMAS R. DEGREGORI

The twentieth century was characterized by economic and technological change of unprecedented rapidity as shown by all economic indicators.

The noneconomic indicators are just as spectacular: life expectancy, health, and increases in per-capita food supply, which more than accommodated population growth virtually all "experts" believed could not be fed. The developed and developing worlds alike added nearly 30 years in average life expectancy . . . and strange as it may seem, the longer we live, the lower percentage of our lives we spend with disabilities.

Agriculture had the additional challenge of putting nutrients into the soil to feed plants, so crops could be grown to feed the growing population. Paradoxically, these accomplishments are largely denied, if only by implication, and the science and technology that allowed them to happen have been under attack for almost the entire century.

The alleged dangers of modern life have become conventional wisdom to large segments of the population, and nowhere is that more true than in agriculture and food supply. This is clearly evident in a multitude of responses to the hoof-and-mouth disease crisis—attributed to some fault of modern agriculture, which could allegedly be cured by a return to a more benign, eco-friendly organic agriculture.

Living in the past is not progress

Prior to the twentieth century, humans never had consistent access to clean water and clean, adequate, nutritious food. Drinking water in the wild today, or by our hunter-gatherer ancestors in the past, can cause "beaver belly" (giardiasis) or be a source of microorganisms derived from moose, ducks, and geese.

Tularemia (a disease related to bubonic plague) ravaged populations who regularly handled game and fur-bearing animals. Wild animals or their remains can be infected with such diseases as rabies, toxoplasmosis, hemorrhagic fevers, leptospirosis, brucellosis, anthrax, salmonellosis, and lethal anaerobic bacteria—gangrene, botulism, and tetanus—all of which can be transmitted to humans.

The history of agriculture is a history of plant and animal diseases that were a regular and largely inseparable part of our food supply. The aflatoxins that infect grains such as maize and rye have brought misery to countless millions of our ancestors and still plague the world's poorest populations. The best estimates today are that 40 percent of the loss of healthy life-years in the world result from food-borne mycotoxins.

"It is ridiculous for critics of modern agriculture to blame modern practices for hoof-and-mouth disease."

It was the Industrial Revolution and modern chemistry that brought us clean water, and it was modern agronomy and science and technology that brought us consistent, adequate, clean, healthy food year-round.

Prior to the 1920s, hoof-and-mouth disease was almost an annually recurring threat to livestock everywhere. Modern animal husbandry has allowed for the creation of relatively disease-free herds that are highly productive of meat and milk and greatly contribute to human health in developed and developing countries.

The United States has not had an outbreak of hoof-and-mouth disease since 1929, while the disease remains endemic in poor areas in Central Asia, Africa, and South America. It was more prevalent before modern high-density husbandry and remains endemic only in areas of less-developed, low-density husbandry. It is ridiculous for critics of modern agriculture to blame modern practices for hoof-and-mouth disease.

The irony is that hoof-and-mouth disease creates a crisis precisely because of the high level of health of our herds. Since the threat to human health is virtually non-existent, we could have chosen simply to contain the disease and accept vastly less-productive herds, producing less meat and milk to consume, as is the case in many poor countries today.

Modern agriculture and husbandry, as any human endeavor, merit constructive criticism and can be further improved. But using any crisis as a basis for attacking modern methods is wrong.

Thomas R. DeGregori is a professor of economics at the University of Houston and author of the forthcoming book, Agriculture and Modern Technology: A Defense.

PETA president sticks foot in mouth

BY DAN MURPHY

As the Agriculture Department and U.S. agricultural authorities continue taking precautions to prevent hoof-and-mouth disease from entering this country, the president of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals said she hopes the disease will attack U.S. livestock and "bring economic harm for those who profit from giving people heart attacks and giving animals a concentration camp-like existence," according to news reports.

Ingrid Newkirk

PETA co-founder and president Ingrid Newkirk said that if hoof-and-mouth came to the United States, "It wouldn't be any more hideous for the animals—they are all bound for a ghastly death anyway. But it would wake up consumers."

Industry officials were quick to respond.

"She's can't be serious," said Steve Kopperud, president of the Animal Industry Foundation, a nonprofit group that develops programs on farming and ranching. "Such grandstanding reveals incredible callousness, a lack of compassion for both animals and people."

Kopperud added that the animal suffering involved would be "monumental" if hoof-and-mouth disease ever attacked U.S. livestock.

"How could anyone, with even the most basic compassion for animals, wish such a devastating disease and possible death on America's millions of livestock?" he asked.

The economic devastation suffered by millions of farm families would be even more horrendous, he noted, citing suicides and bankruptcies across the United Kingdom in the wake of its current hoof-and-mouth crisis. At the same time, food prices would skyrocket, while availability would drop significantly.

"How can Newkirk say they care about 'ethical' treatment of animals—or people for that matter—while apparently salivating over the possibility that such a catastrophe might happen here?" asked Kay Johnson, AIF vice president. "This is typical PETA. [They] say anything to get headlines."

Kopperud and Johnson said they agreed with PETA on one point: It is time for "consumers to wake up" . . . and recognize PETA's total lack of credibility on animal care and welfare.

"From what we've seen, PETA spends most of its money on vegetable costumes and flying people around the country who are willing to take their clothes off to raise more money," the AIF executives said. "It's time for this group to be very quiet. As someone once said, 'It would be good for the animals, good for consumers, and good for the environment'."

Dan Murphy is editor of Meat Marketing & Technology *magazine. For more information, visit the Marketing & Technology Group Web site at www.meatingplace.com.*

A farmworker loads carcasses of cattle slaughtered in the hoof-and-mouth epidemic at Horralane Farm outside High Hampton in Devon County, some 380 km (236 miles) southwest of London. At least 188 farms around the UK have been infected with the highly contagious virus, and instead of incinerating the carcasses at the farms, they are transported to central points for disposal. *photo/Odd Andersen-AFP*

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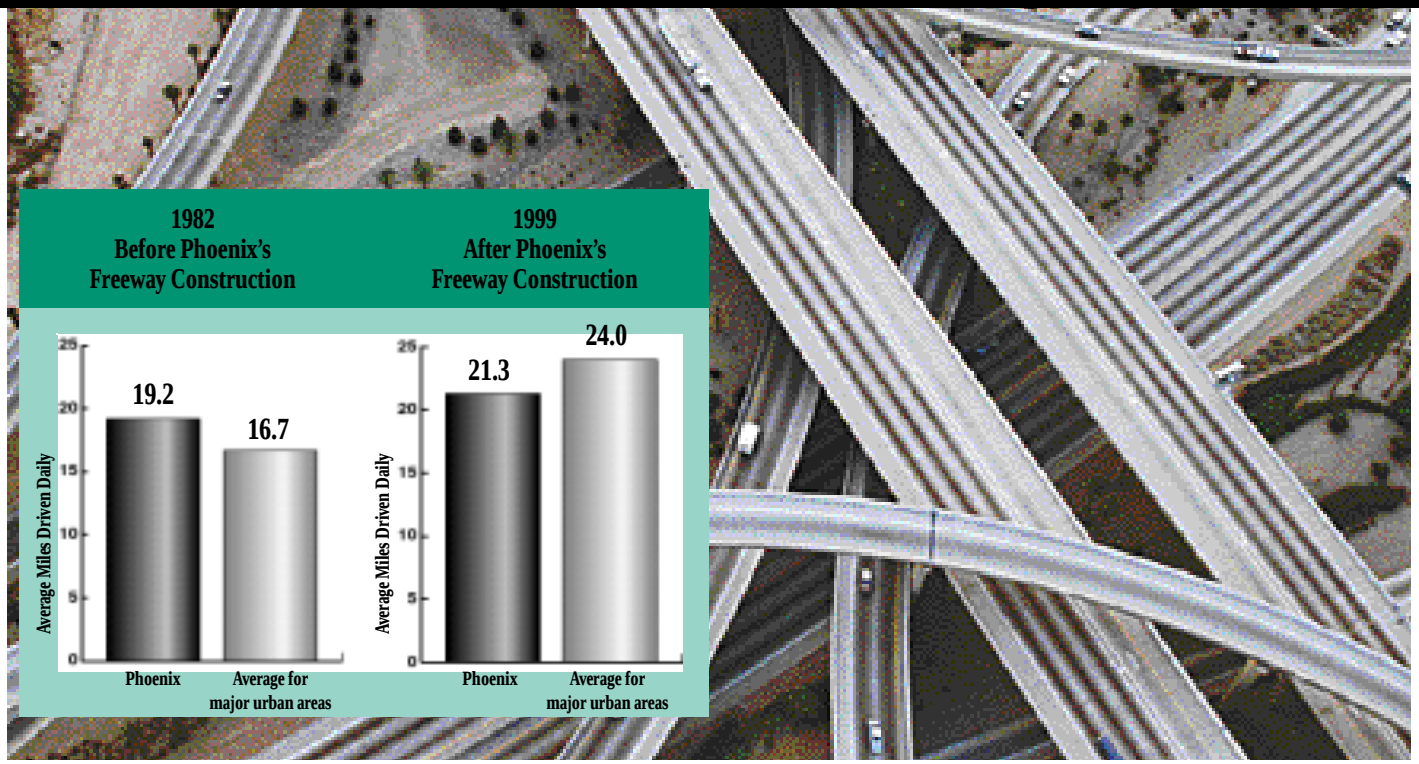

Induced traffic: Setting the record straight

Speeding up the flow of traffic makes our lives more rewarding and our economy more efficient

BY WENDELL COX

Over the years, urban planners have increasingly accepted the view that building more highway capacity induces more highway travel. The supposed causal relationship between highway construction and highway traffic is like claiming that higher rates of pregnancy would result from a maternity ward building spree.

This theory of "induced traffic," like so many anti-automobile propositions, wilts to insignificance when examined in context.

Evaluating the research

Studies have been published to support the induced traffic theory. A University of California study, for example, found that for each 10 percent increase in freeway capacity, there is a 9 percent increase in freeway vehicle miles traveled.

But the researchers didn't bother to examine the impact of the new freeway capacity on the arterial (surface) routes or the rest of the roadway system. Of course, better highways attract more traffic . . . much of it from highways that operate at lower speeds.

The European Conference of Ministers of Transport found a much lower number, estimating the induced traffic impact at 1 to 2 percent for each 10 percent increase in capacity, with instances of up to 4 percent. Other studies have found similar numbers, generally under 5 percent.

Model drivers

Generally, the induced traffic studies examine traffic volume changes in miles through the use of computer models. Results in the real world, however, do not necessarily comport with the models, as any objective observer of modeled urban rail projections recognizes.

"The supposed causal relationship between highway construction and highway traffic is like claiming that higher rates of pregnancy would result from a maternity ward building spree."

Consider Phoenix, for example. In the 1960s, Phoenix officials decided they would not expand the metropolitan area's freeway system, seeking to avoid becoming like Los Angeles. As a result, by the early 1980s, Phoenix had 85 percent fewer freeway lanes per capita than average among urban areas with populations over one million. But traffic became congested anyway, and Phoenix discovered there was something worse than Los Angeles with its freeways: Los Angeles *without* its freeways.

Phoenix undertook an extensive program of freeway construction and now has only 40 percent fewer freeway lane-miles than average. Before the freeway-building program, Phoenix drivers traveled 15 percent more miles daily than the average urban driver nationwide. Today, Phoenix drivers travel 11 percent fewer miles. The theory of induced traffic would have predicted a substantial relative *increase* in average travel, not a reduction.

Missing the point

More importantly, the emphasis on vehicle miles misses the point. The factor that encourages more driving is not capacity, but the reduced travel times that occur when roadways are less congested and operate at higher speeds.

For example, peak hour freeway speeds in large U.S. urban areas average 50 miles per hour. That compares to 30 miles per hour on surface arterial streets. If a new freeway provides an alternative to an arterial, the new traffic can be expected to flow, on average, 20 miles per hour faster. Thus, a driver can travel nearly 17 miles in the same time that it would have taken to travel 10 miles before the new freeway opened.

Additionally, there are "spillover" benefits, as the pre-existing traffic on the expanded roadway increases in speed as well, also reducing travel times.

The critical issue with induced traffic is not vehicle miles traveled, it is travel time. New roadway capacity is unlikely to materially increase travel times, and may even reduce overall travel times.

More driving is better

Speeding up traffic reduces air pollution. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency data show automobiles pollute the least when operating at a constant speed between 35 and 55 miles per hour. The "stop and go" traffic typical of congested urban areas only makes air pollution worse.

Contrary to currently in-vogue planning doctrines, more driving is not an inherent evil. More driving where traffic flows more smoothly is safer, less frustrating for drivers, and good for the quality of life. As the European Conference of Ministers of Transport concluded, "It is economic and social activities in the broadest sense that induce traffic and which the new transport supply simply facilitates."

Speeding traffic flow increases employment opportunities by making more distant employment markets accessible. It reduces business costs by facilitating more rapid movement of goods, and expands consumer choice by making more distant shopping opportunities more readily available.

"In the 1960s, Phoenix officials decided they would not expand the metropolitan area's freeway system, seeking to avoid becoming like Los Angeles. . . . [By the 1980s], they discovered there was something worse than Los Angeles with its freeways: Los Angeles *without* its freeways."

In short, speeding up the flow of traffic makes our lives more rewarding and our economy more efficient. That is not something to be shunned . . . it is something to be warmly embraced.

Wendell Cox is a consultant in international public policy, economics, labor, transport, and strategic planning. He can be reached at 618/632-8507, or by email at enquiries@demographia.com.

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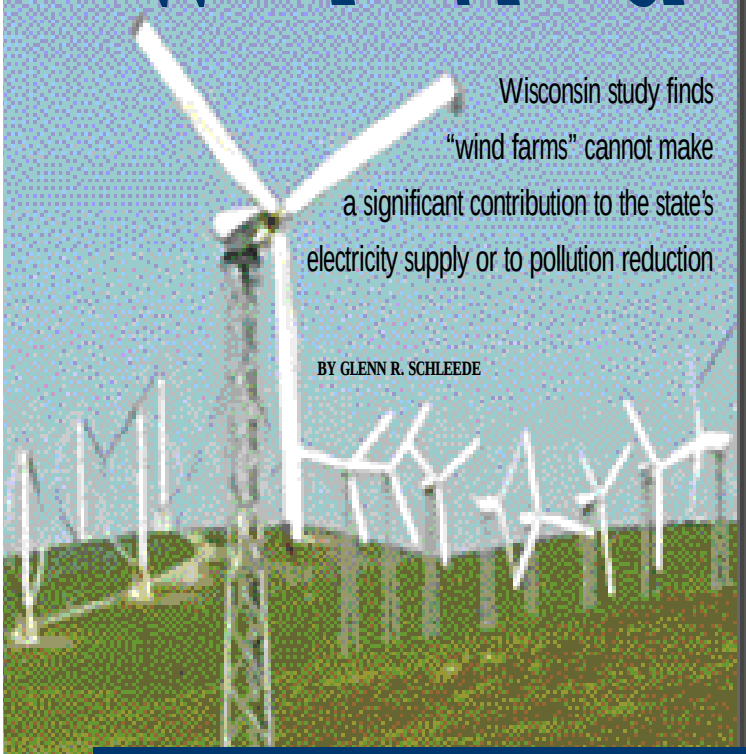
there's too little power in wind

Wisconsin study finds "wind farms" cannot make a significant contribution to the state's electricity supply or to pollution reduction

BY GLENN R. SCHLEEDE



Federal and state government officials, "wind farm" developers, and renewable energy advocacy groups have for years touted windmills as an environmentally benign and economically acceptable way to produce electricity.

The advocates of wind energy have largely persuaded the public, the media, regulators, and elected officials that windmills can make a significant contribution to electricity supply and to emission avoidance. They have also been able to secure tax shelters and other measures highly favorable to wind farm developers … and quite unfavorable to consumers, taxpayers, and those who must live near those developments.

The analysis underlying this report focuses on one state—Wisconsin—where four wind farms have already been built and two more have been proposed. To help provide a better understanding of the potential for wind energy, this report:

- presents recent data on the output from Wisconsin's existing wind farms, estimates the potential output from two proposed wind farms, and compares that output to Wisconsin's total electricity production;
- shows that the very large machines produce very little electricity;
- demonstrates that claims of emissions avoided by wind energy are inaccurate and, even if they were accurate, are so small as to be virtually meaningless;
- explains how a large share of the true costs of electricity from windmills is being shifted away from the large companies that are building wind farms, and instead buried in bills paid by taxpayers and electric customers;
- identifies other misleading claims made by wind energy advocates; and
- points out that federal and state officials have abandoned their responsibility to taxpayers and electricity consumers.

Too little power

Combined, Wisconsin's existing and proposed wind farms would provide roughly one-quarter of 1 percent of the state's total electricity production. Table 1 below provides electricity output data from the four existing wind farms, including their total electricity output during the 12-month period from July 1999 through June 2000. The table also estimates the potential annual electricity output from two new wind farms proposed for Wisconsin, and compares these outputs to the total amount of electricity produced in Wisconsin in 1999.

"Combined, Wisconsin's existing and proposed wind farms would provide roughly one-quarter of 1 percent of the state's total electricity production."

Data in the table demonstrate clearly that the 83 existing and proposed windmills in Wisconsin generate very little electricity and cannot make a significant contribution in supplying Wisconsin's electricity or improving its reliability:

- The total output from the 35 windmills on four existing wind farms represented just 0.082 percent of the state's 1999 electricity production.
- The estimated output from the 28 windmills that would make up FPL Energy's proposed Addison wind farm would equal 0.091 percent of Wisconsin's 1999 electricity production.
- The estimated output from the 20 windmills that would make up Enron's proposed Eden (Iowa County) wind farm would equal 0.113 percent of Wisconsin's 1999 electricity production.

The above analysis overestimates the potential contribution of wind farms. In 1999, Wisconsin used more electricity than was produced within the state.

The state's electricity demands are increasing rapidly. The amount of electricity demanded by and delivered to electric customers in Wisconsin in 1999 was 3 percent above 1998 amounts.

The significant amounts of additional electricity required for Wisconsin's increasing demands can be satisfied effectively and at reasonable cost only by adding significant natural gas or coal-fired generating capacity. Those demands cannot be satisfied by building large windmills that produce electricity only intermittently and then in truly insignificant amounts.

Rated capacity is small

Windmills contribute so little to electricity supply and reliability because, despite their large size, the electricity output from windmills is small. Moreover, windmills produce electricity only when the wind speed is within a certain range. In the case of Wisconsin's existing wind farms, the full, "rated" output occurs only at wind speeds of 30 to 34 miles per hour.

When evaluating the potential contribution of windmills, it is critically important to consider their "capacity factor," shown in column 6 of Table 1. The capacity factor of any electric generating unit is calculated by dividing its net electricity output (in kilo-

TABLE 1 — Electricity production in Wisconsin

FOUR EXISTING WIND FARMS

Location	Owner(s)	Number and size of windmills	Total rated capacity	Electricity output 7/1999 - 6/2000*	Capacity Factor**
Kewaunee County	Madison G&E	17 - 660 kW	11,220 kW	22,500,000 kWh	23.5%
Kewaunee County	Wisconsin Public Service	14 - 660 kW	9,240 kW	18,500,000 kWh	22.8%
Town of Byron	Wisconsin Electric	2 - 660 kW	1,320 kW	3,450,000 kWh	29.6%
South of DePere	Several Wisconsin utilities	2 - 600 kW	1,200 kW	3,261,000 kWh	30.9%
Totals		35	22,980 kW	47,711,600 kWh	23.6%

TWO PROPOSED WIND FARMS

Location	Owner(s)	Number and size of windmills	Total rated capacity	Estimated annual electricity output	Estimated Capacity Factor**
Town of Addison	FLP Energy	28 - 900 kW	25,200 kW	53,000,000 kWh	24.0%
Town of Eden	Enron	20 - 1,500 kW	30,000 kW	65,700,000 kWh	assuming 25.0%

FOR COMPARISON

Total 1999 electricity production in Wisconsin	58,158,000,000 kWh***
Electricity from 35 windmills in four existing wind farms as a percent of total Wisconsin 1999 electricity production	0.082%
Estimated electricity from proposed Addison (Washington County) wind farm as a percent of total Wisconsin 1999 electricity production	0.091%
Estimated electricity from proposed Eden (Iowa County) wind farm as a percent of total Wisconsin 1999 electricity production	0.113%
Total electricity from four existing and two proposed wind farms as a percent of total Wisconsin 1999 electricity production.	0.286%

*RENEW Wisconsin, Wisconsin utility Web sites, FPL Energy's October 11, 2000 conditional use permit application, and *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, October 25, 2000.
** Electricity output (in kWh) divided by rated capacity x hours in year (8,784 for leap year; 8,760 for other years).
*** Energy Information Administration, *Electric Power Monthly*, March 2000, Tables 7 and 62-66.

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watt-hours, or kWh) by the rated capacity (also in kW) times the hours in a year.

Because windmills are dependent on the availability and speed of the wind, they have very low (typically 15 to 30 percent) capacity factors. That means windmills will produce only a small part of their "advertised" nameplate capacity.

The fossil fuel and nuclear power plants on which Wisconsin depends for most of its electricity operate at much higher capacity factors—in effect, whenever they are needed—since they aren't dependent on wind conditions.

Tens of thousands of windmills would be needed to supply a significant fraction of Wisconsin's electricity demand, or to replace electricity from existing power plants. Table 2 compares the potential output from windmills with the output of several existing generating plants in Wisconsin. Specifically, Table 2 shows how many windmills operating at a 25 percent capacity factor would be needed to produce the amount of electricity (i.e., kWh) that:

- was produced in 1999 by several existing nuclear and coal-fired generating plants in Wisconsin; and
- will be produced by a recently approved natural gas-fired generating plant if it operates at only a 70 percent capacity factor.

The data in Table 2 help underscore the point that wind energy will never be able to make a significant contribution in supplying Wisconsin's electricity demands:

- 3,587 windmills of the size proposed for the Addison wind farm, operating at a 25 percent capacity factor, would be required to equal the 1999 electricity output of Point Beach nuclear plant;
- 4,407 windmills of that size and capacity factor would be required to equal the 1999 electricity output of the Pleasant Prairie coal-fired generating plant; and
- 3,267 windmills of that size and capacity factor would be required to equal the output of the planned new gas-fired generating plant at Kenosha, if the Kenosha plant operates at only a 70 percent capacity factor.

"Wind resource" maps for Wisconsin suggest that the areas with suitable wind conditions for wind farms are quite limited. The potential areas are further limited by existing and planned land uses; recreational, scenic, and other environmental considerations; the fact that many property owners do not want windmills in their neighborhoods; and the fact that wind farms must be located near existing transmission lines.

Emission reductions would be tiny, too

The advocates of wind energy often claim significant quantities of air pollutant emissions—sulfur dioxide (SO_2), nitrogen oxides (NOx), and carbon dioxide (CO_2)—can be avoided if wind energy is substituted for electricity generated by coal, natural gas, or oil.

Even if the emission reductions claimed by advocates were correct (they are not), those reductions are very small compared to either the emissions currently associated with electricity generation in Wisconsin, or with the reductions that could be achieved in other ways.

Table 3 below demonstrates that anyone seriously interested in reducing or avoiding emissions would not waste time and effort on building windmills to produce electricity. The table shows the insignificance of the claimed "avoided emissions."

Table 3 shows the claimed "avoided emissions" from three operating and one planned wind farms (61 windmills) combined would add up to a small fraction of 1 percent of the emissions from Wisconsin's existing generating plants.

Wisconsin's electric generating companies could reduce emissions of SO_2, NOx, and CO_2 in several ways that would be much more effective than building windmills. The alternatives include:

- building modern, new gas-fired, combined cycle generating units (like the one now planned for Kenosha by PG&E's Badger Company) to supply Wisconsin's rapidly increasing demand for electricity and, possibly, replacing older generating units;

"Tens of thousands of windmills would be needed to supply a significant fraction of Wisconsin's electricity demand, or to replace electricity from existing power plants."

- repowering existing, older coal-fired generating units with modern gas-fired, combined cycle generating units;
- installing additional pollution control equipment on existing coal-fired generating plants (e.g., scrubbers to reduce sulfur dioxide and/or selective catalytic reduction and/or low-NOx burners to reduce nitrogen oxides).

Cost-shifting to taxpayers, consumers

Tax shelters and other subsidies for windmills shift costs from wind farm owners to taxpayers and electric customers, with those costs hidden in property tax and electric bills.

Apart from the minuscule contributions windmills could make to Wisconsin's electricity requirements and emission reductions, it is important to recognize that even the advocates of wind energy agree it costs much more to produce electricity using windmills than it does using "traditional" energy sources (e.g., coal, natural gas, hydropower).

It is the widespread recognition of this fact that has led the wind energy industry and its lobbyists, "renewable" energy advocacy groups, electric generating companies, the U.S. Department of Energy, and DOE laboratories to lobby for a wide variety of tax breaks and other subsidies.

Those interest groups have been amazingly effective. Their efforts have resulted in a host of federal and state tax shelters and other subsidies available to wind farm developers. When the effects of these tax shelters and subsidies are taken into account, wind farms are a highly profitable venture.

Seldom mentioned, however, is the cost-shifting effect of the tax shelters and other subsidies. The true costs of wind farm projects are shifted away from the owners and developers, and to electric customers and taxpayers. The shifted costs are hidden in tax bills and monthly electric bills. This cost-shifting is accomplished in four ways:

- Tax shelters (including accelerated depreciation, production tax credits, and property tax exemptions) reduce the amount of corporate income tax and property tax paid by energy companies that build wind farms. As a result, the tax burden is shifted to other income and property tax payers.
- Direct subsidy payments are made by the federal and/or state governments to wind energy companies (usually for research and development) and advocacy groups (for "studies" and lobbying). The funds for these subsidies come from tax revenues or so-called "public benefit charges" that are added to electric bills.
- Statutory or regulatory requirements, including so-called "Renewable Portfolio Standards," increase the overall cost of electricity generation. In turn, the rates per kWh charged to all electric customers are increased.
- Premium prices (often called "green pricing" programs) have been established by some state governments, including Wisconsin, to allow electricity producers or suppliers to charge customers premium prices for electricity produced by windmills.

TABLE 2 How Many Windmills?

Plant name	Company	Rated capacity	Fuel	Electricity produced in 1999 (kWh)	Capacity factor	Number of windmills operating at 25% capacity that would be required to produce as many kWh of electricity: 660 kWh*	900 kWh**
EXISTING GENERATING PLANTS							
Point Beach	Wepco	1,047.6MW	Uranium	7,070,099,000	77.0%	4,893	3,587
Kewaunee	WPS	535.0MW	Uranium	4,424,665,000	94.4%	3,062	2,245
Pleasant Prairie	Wepco	1,233.2 MW	Coal	8,687,081,000	80.6%	6,012	4,407
Columbia	WP&L	1,023.0MW	Coal	6,661,989,000	74.3%	4,610	3,380
PLANNED NEW GENERATING PLANT							
Plant name	**Company**	**Rated capacity**	**Fuel**	**Annual production assuming 70% capacity factor (kWh)**		**Number of windmills operating at 25% capacity that would be required to produce as many kWh of electricity**	
Kenosha	Badger	1,050.0 MW	Natural gas	6,438,600,000		4,456	3,267

Data sources: Energy Information Administration, *Inventory of Power Plants in the U.S.*, Table 20, and *Electric Power Monthly*, April 2000, Table 56A. Also PG&E/Badger Press Release, October 13, 2000.
* Each such windmill would produce 1,445,000 kWh of electricity per year (i.e., 660 kW x 8760 hours x .25 capacity factor)
** Each such windmill would produce 1,971,000 kWh of electricity per year (i.e., 900 kW x 8760 hours x .25 capacity factor)

TABLE 3 Air Pollutant Emmisions

	Measurement	Sulfur Dioxide (SO2)	Nitrogen Oxides (NOx)	Carbon Dioxide (CO2)
Total emissions in 1999 from Wisconsin's 28 largest fossil-fueled electric generating plants*	Tons	211,300	108,976	51,453,428
Estimates of emissions avoided during the 12 months 7/99 - 6/00 by wind energy at three existing wind farms**	Tons	83	43	31,500
	% of Wisconsin total	0.04%	0.04%	0.06%
Emissions that would be avoided annually as claimed by FPL Energy for the proposed Addison wind farm***	Tons	336	132	62,400
	% of Wisconsin total	0.16%	0.12%	0.12%

* U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Emissions Tracking System, *Emissions Scoreboard 1999*, Tables B-2, 3, 4.
** RENEW Wisconsin Press Release, July 6, 2000. Note: The press release reported a total of 126 tons of "acid rain gases," which presumably is the total for SO2 and NOx emissions. In the above table, this total was divided between SO2 and NOx using the proportions of the two pollutants shown in the table for Wisconsin's 28 largest fossil-fueled generating plants.
*** FPL Energy's conditional use permit application, October 11, 2000, page 11-1, which indicates the estimates are based on emissions from WEPCO's generating plants.

Concluding thoughts

Energy companies and the advocates of renewable energy have the right to pursue their interests. Ideally, they would not mislead the public, media, Congress, and state and local government officials by fostering unrealistic expectations about the potential contribution of wind energy.

However, it is the U.S. Department of Energy, DOE laboratories, Congress, and state officials (legislatures, utility commissions, and governors) who are directly responsible for shortchanging consumers, taxpayers, and the people who must live near wind farms.

These officials are charged with protecting the public interest, and this they fail to do when they accept at face value the misleading claims of wind energy advocates, pretend windmills can make a significant contribution, and adopt tax shelters and other subsidies that shift the high cost of producing wind electricity to consumers and taxpayers.

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Recreationalists have high hopes

BY ED KLIM

Last November's Presidential election has brought changes to federal and state land management agencies that will be warmly welcomed by the majority of Americans and outdoor recreationists.

In the days of Teddy Roosevelt, park and forest rangers believed forests should provide not only recreational opportunities, but also timber. The renewable resource of timber helps us build more affordable homes, and its proper management allows for the expansion of recreation and healthy flora and fauna. The new administration appears to understand that proper management of our forests is necessary to control forest fires and maintain reasonable recreation on our land.

"It appears the new management teams in place at the Department of Interior, National Park Service, and U.S. Forest Service will be land managers, not land grabbers."

Our new Secretary of Interior, Gale Norton, made it clear during her confirmation hearing that two items topped her "to-do" list:

- elimination of the multi-billion dollar Park Service maintenance backlog and
- restoration of the states' involvement in, and benefits from, the Land, Water and Conservation Fund.

What does this mean for America's hikers, campers, and snowmobilers? Norton's position gives us hope that our National Parks will be repaired, properly maintained, and managed for our enjoyment. A properly maintained and managed Park System will make all our outdoor recreation activities more enjoyable and available.

During the Clinton-Gore administration's two terms, a great deal of tax money was spent acquiring land to put it under federal government control. Recreation groups have openly questioned why federal government officials were so intent on land control.

Norton's appointment to the Department of Interior gives us reason to believe the federal government's spending will more often take the form of allocating money to state and local governments. They, in turn will be able to purchase and manage land at the state and local level, where recreationists are better organized and more easily heard.

Norton is likely to seek an expansion of the Urban Park and Recreation Recovery Grant Program, which offers grant money for parks and open land in and around urban areas. Most Americans support the expansion of park areas around their cities, to give urban residents the opportunity to interact with Mother Nature close to home. Among most Americans, support runs higher for the notion of purchasing *urban* land for recreational use than it does for adding further acreage to an existing multi-million-acre Wilderness Area in Montana, Alaska, or Idaho.

This administration, under Gale Norton's guidance and with the support of Congress, can be expected to establish a budget that calls for a substantial increase in spending for maintenance and recreation activities in all land management agencies. We can also expect more federal funds to be transferred to the state land agencies, giving recreationists additional input into how our state forests, state parks, and urban parks will be developed and managed.

It appears the new management teams in place at the Department of Interior, National Park Service, and U.S. Forest Service will be land *managers*, not land grabbers. This will be a very good thing for outdoor enthusiasts across the country.

Ed Klim is president of the International Snowmobile Manufacturers Association.

Court questions Clinton roadless rule

BY ADENA COOK

Recreation groups celebrated an April 5 federal court decision that raised serious concerns about the Clinton administration's Roadless Rule, scheduled to go into effect on May 12. The rule, which would prevent even routine maintenance of current roads, could result in the gradual closure of thousands of miles of trails in government-owned forests.

On January 8, the Kootenai Tribe of Idaho, three snowmobile groups, the Little Cattle Company Limited Partnership, and timber giant Boise Cascade filed suit against the federal government, seeking to overturn the controversial roadless initiative signed by then-President Bill Clinton the week before. The suit named Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman, Forest Service Chief Mike Dombeck, and their agencies as defendants. The State of Idaho filed a separate lawsuit against the roadless plan.

The initiative bans new roads and almost all logging in nearly 60 million acres of roadless national forest in the United States. That total includes about 6 million acres in Montana and 700,000 acres on the Gallatin National Forest.

The plaintiffs had requested an injunction to stop the Rule's implementation. U.S. District Judge Edward Lodge postponed ruling on the injunction until he could hear what the Forest Service had to say. On April 5, he found the plaintiffs' claims had merit.

"Having previously found that the Plaintiffs have demonstrated a strong likelihood of success on the merits," wrote Lodge, "under the Ninth Circuit's test for equitable relief Plaintiffs need only make a minimal showing of harm to justify an injunction."

The roadless rule is under review by the Bush administration.

Paul Turcke, the Boise attorney representing the BlueRibbon Coalition and other recreation groups, was "encouraged by the court's ruling. We look forward to the outcome of the administration's review," he said.

For more information...

WWW on the roadless rule, visit the BlueRibbon Coalition's Web site at **http://www.sharetrails.org**. Click on the Roadless Initiative Archive. The Blue Ribbon Coalition is a national nonprofit recreation group that champions responsible multiple-use access to public lands.

"I'm glad the court noted that the roadless rule could have negative impacts to our existing recreational infrastructure," said Don Amador, western representative for the BlueRibbon Coalition. "The decision explained that in California, officials from the Shasta-Trinity National Forest had to drop plans to reconstruct and maintain old jeep trails that provide access to the Lower-McCloud River Watershed.

"We contend that this type of closure in the Shasta-Trinity National Forest could occur in similar areas affected by the Rule," Amador warned.

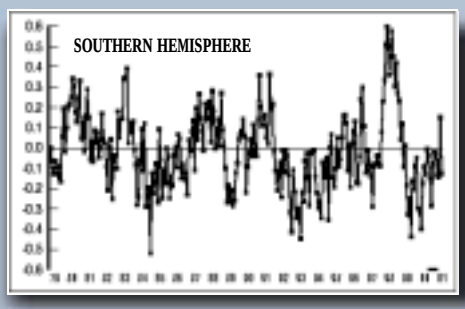
Adena Cook is public lands director for the BlueRibbon Coalition.

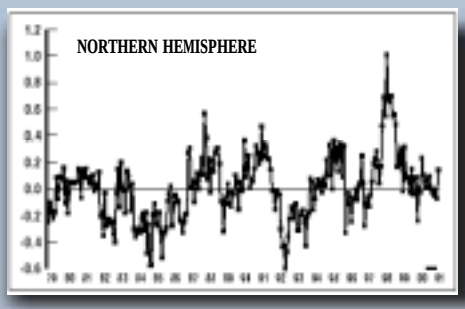
MARCH 2001

The global average temperature for March, shown on page 1, was 0.009˚C above normal. The Southern Hemisphere's temperature departure, shown below, was 0.128˚C below normal; the Northern Hemisphere's, below right, was 0.147˚C above normal.

Each month, Earth Track *updates the global averaged monthly satellite measurements of the Earth's temperature. These numbers are important because they are real—not projections, forecasts, or guesses.*

Global satellite measurements are made from a series of orbiting platforms that sense the average temperature in various atmospheric layers. Here, we present the lowest level, which climate models say should be warming. The satellite measurements are considered accurate to within 0.01°C.





The data used to create these graphs can be founds on the Internet at *http://vortex.nsstc.uah.edu/data/msu/t2lt/t2ltglhmam.d.*

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PROPERTY continued from page 1

owned by the federal government. Senators Larry Craig (R-Idaho), Jesse Helms (R-North Carolina), Michael Enzi (R-Wyoming), and Ted Stevens (R-Alaska) have joined as cosponsors.

The bill provides that the federal government "may acquire an interest in 100 or more acres of land" within a state in which the federal government already owns 25 percent or more of the land "only if, before any such acquisition, the United States disposes of the surface estate to land in that State in accordance with subsection (b)."

Subsection (b) provides the disposition of the surface estate qualifies if "the value of the surface estate of the land disposed of by the United States is approximately equal to the value of the interest in land subject to this section that is to be acquired by the United States. . ."

For more information...

WWW The full text of H.R. 1100 is available in Adobe Acrobat's PDF format on the Internet at **http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgibin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=107congbills&docid=f:h1100ih.txt.pdf**

The bill awaits action by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Endangered Species Act

On March 20, Congressman Richard Pombo (R-California) reintroduced a bill that would amend the Endangered Species Act (ESA) to make it easier for individual property owners and local, state, and federal government agencies to prevent natural flood disaster.

The bill, referred to the House Committee on Resources, had attracted 19 cosponsors by late April.

Pombo's bill would allow flood control districts and other entities to maintain and repair existing levees without having to pay "mitigation" fees to environmental groups or government agencies.

The bill, H.R. 1100, provides that the "consultation and conferencing" requirements of the ESA do not apply, and an activity is not considered a "taking" of an endangered species, if the activity

"(A) consists of reconstruction or repair of a Federal or non-Federal levee structure

(i) to address a critical, imminent threat to public health or safety; or

(ii) to address a catastrophic natural event; or

(B) consists of maintaining the structural integrity of a Federal or non-Federal levee structure."

Pombo first introduced the bill after flooding killed three people in California in early 1997. Levee repairs had been halted because the area was determined to be potential habitat for the endangered elderberry beetle. No beetles had been seen in the area.

For more information...

WWW The full text of H.R. 472 is available in Adobe Acrobat's PDF format on the Internet at **http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgibin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=107_cong_bills&docid=f:h472ih.txt.pdf**

"With the threat of a Clinton veto removed, Congress is considering legislation to restore balance and common sense to public lands management."

Before levee repairs could proceed, the federal government demanded "mitigation" fees be paid, because the beetles *might* be disturbed if they ever decided to live in the area.

ESA, Take 2

On February 6, Congressman George Radanovich (R-California) introduced H.R. 472, a bill similar to Pombo's, which aims to exempt routine maintenance and operations from ESA provisions. Radanovich's bill is driven not by concerns in his home state of California, but in his workplace: Washington, DC.

The Woodrow Wilson Bridge—which crosses the Potomac River as part of Interstate 95 and is a major artery for commuter traffic to and from the city—is sorely in need of repair. But there are endangered sturgeon in the river, and endangered eagles in the trees.

Environmental groups demanded that before the bridge repairs took place, mitigation money should be paid to repair damaged habitat. That mitigation demand would make bridge repair too expensive to undertake. So the Maryland and Virginia congressmen representing the area sought an exemption from the ESA for the Wilson Bridge repair.

Those six Washington, DC-area congressmen, seeking the ESA exemption for their project, voted against granting an exemption to save lives in California by allowing levee repair.

For more information...

WWW The full text of H.R. 601, as amended, is available on the Internet at **http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgibin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=107_cong_bills&docid=f:h601rh.txt.pdf**

Radanovich's H.R. 472 will allow limited ESA exemptions for the Wilson Bridge and similar projects across the country. To date, the bill has attracted no cosponsors—including the six congressmen from the DC area.

Hunting in Craters of the Moon

On February 13, Representative Mike Simpson (R-Idaho) introduced H.R. 601, which will restore hunting access to roughly 60 percent of land made off-limits to hunting by former President Bill Clinton in his Presidential Proclamation 7373 on November 9, 2000.

Clinton's action had added over 660,000 acres to the Craters of the Moon National Monument; Simpson's bill, as amended by the House Resources Committee, would restore hunting on 410,000 acres.

Representatives John Duncan Jr. (R-Tennessee) and C.L. "Butch" Otter (R-Idaho) joined the bill as cosponsors on March 20. The bill was heard in the Subcommittee on National Parks, Recreation and Public Lands, reported out to the full Resources Committee on March 22, and reported out of that Committee on April 3.

While the bill Simpson introduced would have restored hunting access to all 660,000 acres of the expanded Craters Monument, the amended bill applies only to 410,000 acres, which the bill redesignates the "Craters of the Moon National Preserve." The amended bill also gives the Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with the State of Idaho, authority to designate no-hunting zones and seasons.

Simpson did not appear to object to the amendments. When the measure cleared the Resources Committee, he said "I'm thrilled my colleagues on the House Resources Committee have unanimously supported my effort to ensure promises made to the people of Idaho are promises kept."

Land and Water Conservation Fund

Congressman William "Mac" Thornberry (R-Texas) is putting together a bill to make sure private property rights are protected when land acquisition funds are spent from the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). At this writing, he was expected to introduce the proposal in May.

Monies from the LWCF have made it possible for communities to fund such local recreation opportunities as swing sets and swimming pools. However, the land acquisition elements of the program have been used by federal and state governments as a tool to threaten land owners with condemnation, and then, in conjunction with endangered species listings, to buy private land for a fraction of its value.

To ensure LWCF sticks to its traditional role of promoting recreation projects and is not hijacked by land-hungry government agencies, Thornberry's legislation would add tough property rights protections to the program:

- Protection of inholders of private property located adjacent to federal lands.
- Prohibitions against restricting use of private land just because it is located adjacent to federal lands. Government agencies have been proclaiming "buffer zones" around federal lands, prohibiting use of private property in those buffer zones. Thornberry would eliminate that practice.
- A ban on using LWCF funds to condemn private property.

The Thornberry proposal contains other good provisions as well, such as requiring notification to affected areas, encouragement of land exchanges, and other alternatives to private property acquisition.

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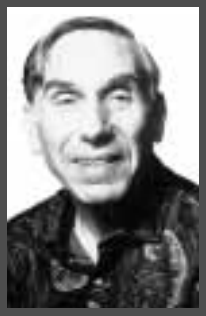
Risk in perspective: Radiation, reactor accidents, and radioactive waste

AN INTERVIEW WITH BERNARD COHEN BY JAY LEHR

Dr. Bernard Cohen is professor emeritus of physics and of environmental and occupational health at the University of Pittsburgh.



Cohen's best-known scientific work has been in nuclear reactions and the structure of the atomic nucleus. Widely recognized as one of the world's leading experts on nuclear energy and human health, Cohen has conducted research on such topics as the hazards of plutonium toxicity, risk analysis of radioactive wastes, radon in U.S. homes, perspective on risks in society, and health effects of low-level radiation.

His work has led to prestigious national awards from the American Physical Society, Health Physics Society and American Nuclear Society. He has published some 300 papers in scientific journals, is the author of six books, and has published roughly 75 papers in popular journals.

A popular speaker in his field, Cohen has presented about 650 invited talks in 47 states, six Canadian provinces, six Australian states, seven Japanese prefectures, and 24 other countries in Europe, Asia, and South America. He has conducted nearly 100 radio and 50 television appearances, including shows with Barbara Walters, William Buckley, Charlie Rose, Geraldo Rivera, and Rolanda.

LEHR: *You are internationally known for your work in radiation, health, and physics. What do you consider your first significant research breakthrough?*

COHEN: The early part of my career was devoted to experimental research in basic nuclear physics, a highly successful worldwide program that brought our understanding of how protons and neutrons behave in nuclei up to a par with our understanding of how electrons behave in atoms. For my contributions to this enterprise, I received the 1981 American Physical Society Bonner Prize, the only award for research in nuclear physics.

My best-known research in radiation and health was on:

- Hazards from plutonium toxicity—an extensive analysis of the total eventual consequences of plutonium dispersal (about 20 eventual deaths per pound dispersed in the most effective way);
- Probabilistic risk analysis of buried wastes from electricity generation—showing that coal-burning wastes will cause thousands of times as many deaths as nuclear wastes;
- Risks in our society—showing that nuclear power risks are completely trivial in perspective with other risks we routinely accept, and showing society spends thousands of times more per death averted to avoid nuclear risks than to avoid others.
- Radon in homes—measurement techniques, surveying methods, correlations with house and occupant characteristics, geographical variations, and correlation with lung cancer mortality.

For this and other research I received the 1992 Health Physics Society Distinguished Scientific Achievement Award, the 1995 American Nuclear Society Walter Zinn Award, and the 1995 American Nuclear Society Special Award.

LEHR: *How did America's exaggerated fear of nuclear energy and radioactivity first develop, and how have the fires of fear been fanned over the past two decades?*

COHEN: Nuclear power was going through an explosive growth period in the early 1970s. At the same time, environmental activism was developing, leading to the formation of numerous politically oriented environmental groups.

To compete for dues-paying members and financial support from foundations, these new environmental groups were looking for issues that would attract public interest. They focused on nuclear power, for several reasons:

- It was a new industry.
- It was an industry sponsored by very large corporations, an enemy the environmentalists were generally accusing of putting profits ahead of public safety, etc.
- It was related to fearful nuclear weapons.
- It was developed with very extensive analyses of potential environmental impacts, and those analyses were widely available in publications. All the environmentalists had to do was omit the fact that the impact analyses showed very small probabilities of environmental harm. The environmental groups reported dangers "may happen," implying that they "will happen."

LEHR: *Who were the leaders of these environmental groups?*

COHEN: The leaders were often veterans of the anti-Vietnam war protests looking for a new cause; they had developed good connections with the media. They had little interest in science, except as a tool for promoting their political goals. Ralph Nader united them into a well-coordinated political force to oppose nuclear power.

LEHR: *Did the news media play a significant role?*

COHEN: Yes. Like the environmental groups, the media found such issues as potential nuclear accidents and radiation exposures attractive to their audiences, and readily featured the materials supplied to them by these groups.

The great majority of scientists favor nuclear power, but they have little access to the media and thus have a difficult time getting their message to the public. Once an issue gets into the political arena, science inevitably takes a back seat, so the public is left misinformed.

In spite of all this, polls show that a sizable majority of the U.S. public favors nuclear power. Still, the opposition is far more vocal, and far more politically powerful.

LEHR: *What has your research shown about the relationship between radiation and risks to human health?*

COHEN: There is a great deal of accurate information on how high doses of radiation can cause cancer, from the Japanese A-bomb victims, from therapeutic uses of radiation in medicine, from occupational exposures, etc. But when it comes to radiation in the environment, and the risk that poses to human health, nearly all important questions involve very much lower doses.

To estimate the effects of low-level radiation, it was conventional to assume the risk is simply proportional to the dose, called the linear-no threshold (LNT) hypothesis. For example, the LNT hypothesis assumes that the risk from 1 unit of exposure is 1/1000 of the risk from 1,000 units of exposure.

This LNT hypothesis is responsible for the notion that *any* exposure to radiation, no matter how small, can cause cancer. That notion, in turn, has led to widespread fear of all radiation. The U.S. government holds to this position.

LEHR: *Does research support this hypothesis?*

COHEN: In the past 10 years, a large body of evidence has developed that indicates low-level radiation can *protect* people

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"If all the country's electricity were generated by nuclear power plants, the health risk would be equivalent to the risk faced by an overweight person who increases his weight by 0.03 ounces; by crossing a street one extra time every 20 weeks; by increasing the national speed limit from 55 mph to 55.02; or by using a sub-compact car rather than a mid-size car one day every 10 years."

from developing cancer.

Low-level radiation increases production of enzymes that repair the DNA damage that can initiate development of cancer. Low-level radiation also increases the time available for this DNA repair, stimulates the immune system to resist the growth of tumors, and enhances the process by which potential cancer cells commit suicide (apoptosis).

LEHR: *What research have you conducted in this field?*

COHEN: My contribution has been to show there is a very strong and statistically indisputable tendency for U.S. counties with high radon exposures to have low lung cancer rates, and for counties with low radon exposures to have high lung cancer rates. These findings run contrary to the prediction from LNT.

My findings are not affected by corrections for smoking prevalence, or by consideration of over 500 potential confounding factors like socioeconomic variables, climate, ethnicity, etc.

"The great majority of scientists favor nuclear power, but they have little access to the media and thus have a difficult time getting their message to the public."

LEHR: *Where do the majority of scientists now stand on the LNT hypothesis and low-level radiation?*

COHEN: As a result of all of this recent evidence, a large fraction of the involved scientific community is convinced LNT grossly exaggerates the cancer risk from low-level radiation, and that the net effect of the radiation exposures normally at issue may even be to protect against cancer.

LEHR: *What are the principal issues hindering the public's understanding and acceptance of nuclear power?*

COHEN: Many issues have been raised by critics, and all of these are addressed at substantial length in my books. The most important ones are (1) an irrational fear of radiation, (2) greatly exaggerated concepts of potential reactor accidents, (3) failure to understand the potential dangers of radioactive wastes, and (4) poor recognition of the various risks we all face, and failure to keep them in perspective. There are one or more lengthy chapters on each of these in my books.

LEHR: *How do you respond to the public's fear of radiation?*

COHEN: This fear is fueled by the popular idea that being hit by a single particle of radiation can cause cancer. That fear is based on the linear-no threshold theory, which I accept when dealing with the public.

In response, I point out that every one of us is hit by 15,000 of these particles every second, and a typical diagnostic X-ray hits us with about a trillion.

The reason we survive is that the probability for one of these hits to cause cancer is just one chance in 30,000,000,000,000,000 (30 quadrillion): pretty good odds. Thirty quadrillion is 30 times the number of hairs on all the heads of the current human population of the Earth. [*Editor's note:* If you counted to 30 quadrillion, one second at a time, it would take you roughly 1 billion years.]

This makes clear that the dangers of radiation must be treated quantitatively. To do this I introduce the millirem, the units in which we measure dose, and give examples of doses from natural radiation and from nuclear power; the latter are obviously negligible by comparison.

LEHR: *How do you address fears of reactor accidents?*

COHEN: People have the impression that if anything goes wrong in a nuclear power plant, there is a good chance a terrible accident will result. To counteract this, I explain and illustrate the design principle of defense.

If a pump fails or if a valve misfunctions, a substitute pump or valve automatically takes over. If a whole system fails, another system automatically takes over its function. If this fails, a third system kicks in to mitigate the problem, etc. This explains why, after about 10,000 reactor-years of operation, no one has ever been killed by an accident in a U.S. type nuclear power plant.

LEHR: *And what are we going to do with the nuclear waste?*

COHEN: We're going to convert it into rocks and put it in the natural habitat of rocks, deep underground.

We know all about how rocks behave. Using this knowledge, we can show this buried waste will have trivial health impacts. In fact, there are three different types of wastes from coal-burning, each of which will cause more than a thousand times more deaths than the nuclear wastes created in generating the same amount of electricity.

LEHR: *How do you put risks into perspective for people?*

COHEN: One approach is to give the number of days of lost life expectancy due to various risks. For example, being poor reduces your life expectancy by 3,500 days; smoking, by 2,300 days; being 30 pounds overweight, by 900 days; motor vehicle accidents, by 180 days; living near a nuclear power plant, by 0.4 days.

Another approach is to show the risk-equivalent, for the average American, of having all of our electricity from nuclear plants. For example, if all the country's electricity were generated by nuclear power plants, the health risk would be equivalent to the risk faced by a regular smoker who smokes one extra cigarette every 10 years; or by an overweight person who increases his weight by 0.03 ounces; by crossing a street one extra time every 20 weeks; by increasing the national speed limit from 55 mph to 55.02; or by using a sub-compact car rather than a mid-size car one day every 10 years.

LEHR: *As a highly respected senior scientist not known for his pithy sound bites on the evening news, how would you like to participate in a broad public education program on these issues?*

COHEN: The highest priority in my professional life now is to contribute to such an educational effort.

I am always willing to speak to any audience that will hear me, and I write papers for publication in journals. Four of the six books I have authored, and about 80 of my 350 published papers, are aimed at educating the general public. I am always open to suggestions for other ways in which I can contribute.

Domenici bill aims to expand U.S. nuclear industry

BY SUZANNE STRUGLINSKI

Senate Budget Committee Chairman Pete Domenici (R-New Mexico) introduced on March 7 the Nuclear Energy Electricity Assurance Act of 2001, which aims to increase nuclear power production in the U.S.

"The time has come for the United States of America to reconsider its position on nuclear power and become a world leader again," Domenici said.

Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee Chairman Frank Murkowski (R-Alaska) and committee members Larry Craig (R-Idaho), Bob Graham (D-Florida), Chuck Hagel (R-Nebraska), Jon Kyl (R-Arizona), Mary Landrieu (D-Louisiana), and Blanche Lincoln (D-Arkansas) signed on as cosponsors along with Senators Mike Crapo (R-Idaho), Fred Thompson (R-Tennessee), and George Voinovich (R-Ohio). The bill, S. 472, was referred to the Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

"[Nuclear energy] has to play a larger role in our world," Murkowski said. "We can't let any technology pass us by." He emphasized the need to reduce U.S. reliance on foreign oil, which is the backbone of his energy reform proposal, S. 388. Murkowski emphasized that growing the nuclear industry here would help avoid using oil imported from other countries. The Domenici bill does permit foreign ownership of domestic reactors.

For more information...

WWW The 61-page text of the Nuclear Energy Electricity Assurance Act of 2001 is available on the Internet at **http:// frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=107congbills&docid=f:s472is.txt.pdf.**

The Domenici bill provides $406 million for five principal provisions: gaining support for nuclear energy; encouraging new plant construction; assuring a level playing field for nuclear power; creating waste solutions; and improving Nuclear Regulatory Commission regulations. The funding provisions also call for $60 million for a Nuclear Energy Research Initiative and $32.4 million to implement a Nuclear Energy Research Advisory Committee. The bill also calls for new positions in the Energy Department to specifically handle nuclear issues, including an office of spent nuclear fuel research.

"There are a number of solutions for the problem," Domenici said. "We don't know if we are going to succeed with one, but all I know is we are going to solve the waste problem."

Nuclear power supporters often tout the emissions-free energy production that nuclear energy provides, while opponents protest the waste generated by the plants and radiation exposure threats. There are 103 operating nuclear power plants in the United States, providing 20 percent of the country's electricity.

The Nuclear Information and Resource Service called the bill a "wish list" for the nuclear industry.

"It is just expanding the bureaucracy for nuclear power," said Paul Gunter, director of NIRS's Reactor Watchdog Project. "It's wholesale efforts for an industry that fails the market test. If it is the cheapest form of energy, why does it need Congress to come in and be its cheerleader?"

The Nuclear Energy Institute praised the bill.

"Senator Domenici recognizes the nation's long-term need for nuclear power in a diverse portfolio of energy resources," said NEI president Joe Colvin. "The comprehensive legislation that he has introduced is a bold stroke to assure a strong role for nuclear energy in our nation's electricity infrastructure, and the industry calls upon other members of the Senate to support it."

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ON THE FRONTLINES

ELF criminals go unpunished

It was said on the Senate floor that some Senators were threatened with bodily harm if they voted for John Ashcroft. Please investigate why Craig Rosebraugh, spokesman for terrorist group ELF in Portland, Oregon was in DC this week.

Terrorism to change public policy is what his group does. Maybe the ELF group was involved, as they have been in over 100 other acts of terrorism with a cost of over $40 million, without anyone being prosecuted. There is something wrong when nothing is being done to stop them. Hopefully your people can stop them.

Bruce Griffith, President
Griffith Lumber Company
Stuart, Virginia

BY JOHN FULTON LEWIS

Craig Rosebraugh is the shadow-voice of eco-terrorism in the United States and has been for several years now. He is the official spokesperson for what is known as the Earth Liberation Front (ELF).

ELF has no formal headquarters or publicly known organizational structure. Rosebraugh says he doesn't know who is or is not a member. But he knows every detail of what they do and is well-established as the one and only authoritative ELF media contact.

ELF is shy and restrained only when it comes to the identification of ELF activists who have committed some form of extreme vandalism. The evidence, so far, suggests most ELF activists are young and probably students in high school or college. Of the four so far arrested in connection with a series of burnings of new homes under construction on Long Island, New York, three were in high school; only the fourth was over age 21.

Until the Long Island arson outbreak, except for a couple of torchings in the Midwest, nearly all of ELF's most publicized activity has been in the western United States, mostly in close proximity to federal forestlands or wilderness.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation now considers ELF to be one of the nation's principal terrorist groups. Yet rangers and other police agents of the U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, and Fish and Wildlife Service have been notably ineffective—even, it has been suggested, disinterested—in solving ELF's crimes against private property.

ELF's activities flowered during the years of the Clinton-Gore administration, when resource extraction activities, such as timber and mining, and recreational interests, such as inholder resorts (hunting, fishing, snowmobiling, and skiing, especially) were subjected to frequent harassment and criticism.

Over the past decade of mounting eco-terrorism, Virginia was hardly aware of the subject . . . until January 30, 2001. That's when Craig Rosebraugh was invited to address an assembly of students, faculty, and visitors at Virginia Tech University. His sponsor for the event was the New River Coalition for Animal Rights, a clear example of how property destroyers (ELF) and animal issue advocates make common cause in their anarchistic ways to bring down democratic capitalist society in any way possible.

Elves on campus

Fortunately, a few people in the Old Dominion were forewarned and alert. One of them was Bruce Griffith, a lumberman in southwest Virginia. In a matter of hours, he, Talley Griffith, and Jane Hogan from Southside, Virginia, like the Minutemen of 226 years ago in Massachusetts, had rallied a Virginia Treekeepers (TreeKeepers.org) delegation of citizens to make the long trip to protest and monitor Rosebraugh's appearance on the Tech campus.

Bruce Griffith provided this account for the Alliance for America and others within hours of the event:

Jane and Holt Hogan brought people, Bud Connor, Gary Birkett, Andy McCready, Stuart Deacon, Danny Goodbar, Bob Shaffer, Talley Griffith and I brought six. I think most everyone brought others. Bob Shaffer got Tech students to attend.

The biggest thanks and praise goes to Talley Griffith for all the efforts he made to get the media there and to be anxious to interview him. He had media packets prepared, including placards and handouts. Two TV stations from Roanoke were waiting for him for interviews. We were a few minutes later than we wanted to be, so we hurriedly passed out the placards to Jane, Holt, Bud, Bruce, Talley, Matt D, and the rest of our helpers and protested in front of the TV.

Talley and my nephew, Matt Dunlap, a student from nearby Ferrum College, were interviewed for the 11 o'clock news on two Roanoke TV stations which gave great coverage of us. Talley and Matt both explained why we were there protesting. It was really a great media event and it was (most helpful) to our side for a change.

The Tech auditorium was standing room only. The campus police would only let people in as others left because of the fire code. Most of the several hundred in the audience were students, but our group and a few others who came to protest provided a sprinkling of older citizens in a packed house.

The student body, judging from the volume of crowd reactions to key questions and the speaker's replies, was quite divided on environmental issues, though the majority indicated opposition to the Rosebraugh message.

Rosebraugh was described by one observer as being tall, skinny, and pale with head shaven. He sat on the stage in a chair behind a big wooden desk and read his prepared statement. He gave examples of past direct-action movements in history that required riots, wars, and terrorist-type activity in

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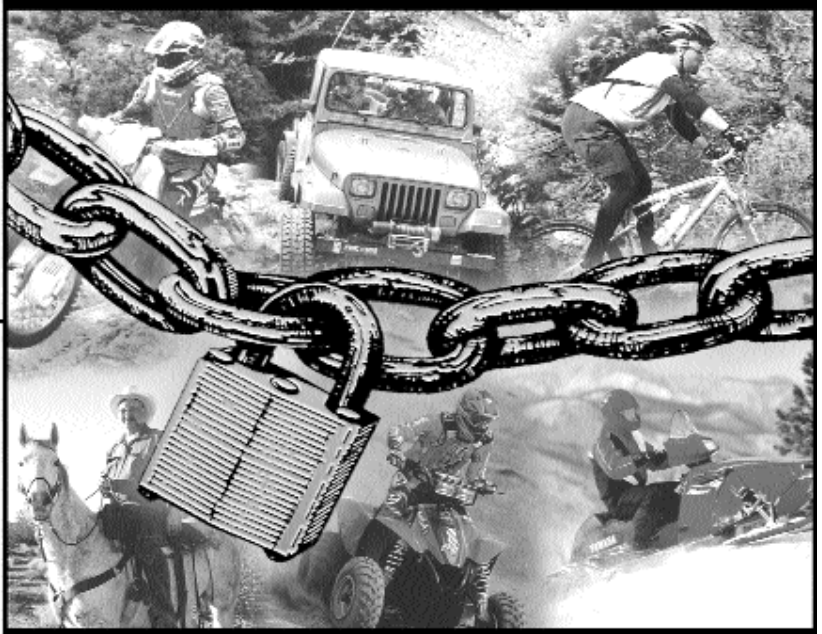

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order to bring change in societal thinking.

He explained the history of ELF and how he became their spokesperson . . . all the while denying he was a member. Nor did he know any of them, he insisted. He kept praising their efforts in bringing attention to the need to destroy the capitalist system. Griffith recalls:

A lot of good questions were asked at the end: Birkett on spikes in logs, McCready on being a volunteer fire fighter and how many were killed last year fighting fires, and that he better not hear of one dying fighting one of ELF's arson fires. Talley asked Rosebraugh direct questions about his activity with ELF, trying to trip him up and make him tie himself to the ELF group. He didn't tumble.

Some kid got up and said to Rosebraugh that since he was the spokesperson, and he seemed to be the only one working for the group by traveling around drumming up students, then he concluded Rosebrough was the ELF. An East Indian student chided him for using Gandhi as an example of changing society while talking about terrorism in the same breath.

Treekeepers participants were interviewed by Roanoke and Richmond newspapers and several smaller publications, as well as the television stations covering the Rosebraugh event. Rosebraugh apparently was touring the eastern U.S. for college appearances and media interviews. All of the effort, it is fair to assume, was to extol the "virtues" of ELF, anarchy, and socialism.

That should have been the end of the story . . . but this one has a significant postscript.

The spiking continues

Approximately 40 days after Rosebraugh's Virginia Tech appearance, some six hours away from Blacksburg on the eastern side of the Virginia Commonwealth, ELF drove potentially injurious, sometimes even lethal, concealed metal spikes into large trees due for logging.

ELF had posted 30 signs warning the trees were spiked, but an executive of the logging firm, specialists in producing quality wood for furniture, said the spiking would not stop the company from removing the trees as planned.

The first risk from "spiking" is to loggers cutting down the trees. Chainsaws or crosscut sawblades can easily break on the spikes, ricocheting into loggers like razor-edge bullets. The second, even bigger, risk is when logs are taken to the sawmill. High-speed blades, costing up to $2,300 each, may be ruined by a spike, and the risk to the saw operators is great.

The spiked tract of hardwoods was privately owned, formerly a 500-acre farm with a 300-acre forest, purchased last year by Rock Hill Lumber, Inc. of Culpeper, Virginia.

Rosebraugh, contacted immediately by the news media after the spiking, said from his Portland, Oregon office he knew nothing of the Virginia action. Those who attended his speech at Virginia Tech had every right to be skeptical.

John Fulton Lewis is a student at Virginia Tech University.

Forget about them

BY BARB MOSSMAN

If a child is reared to believe the sky is green, and the grass is blue, he will grow to believe it to be true.

The rank and file environmentalist shares the same concerns regarding the environment as we do. The only difference is, they have been force-fed lies, misinformation, and propaganda by the power-mongering leaders of their movement.

Environmentalism has become an industry: a self-perpetuating industry, in which crisis and apocalyptic forecasts are necessary to generate sufficient revenues to propel their agenda.

The stark difference between "them" and "us" has always been the manner in which each has approached truth, facts, and sound science. "We" have always attempted to rise above the temptation to employ the same tactics to win the debate.

Referring to environmentalists as communists is counterproductive and leaves the common/neutral person with the impression that both sides lack the character, ethics, and moral aptitude to conduct themselves in a manner worthy of trust.

Resign yourselves to the fact that the devoted environmentalist will not be persuaded by the truth. To launch a campaign to "educate" them is an exercise in futility.

Forget them.

Our target should and must be those who are open-minded and willing to accept the fact there are severe defects in the rigid, insensitive methods designed and implemented by the environmental community in regards to natural resource management.

We are witnessing an explosion of new and beneficial findings in all areas of natural resource management, from California's power crisis, to the 6 million acres of forest lost to fire in the 2000 fire season.

If we commit ourselves to contributing positive and sound solutions, we can guide policy decisions that will benefit not only our own industries, communities, and families, but our country.

It's time to move on, as President George W. Bush has suggested. Forget the environmentalists; they have become irrelevant in light of the new administration. They have lost their seat at the table, and the chairs are open. Let's not jeopardize out chance to fill those seats by employing the same confrontational and divisive rhetoric that has dominated natural resource issues for the past decade.

As the old adage goes, "He who lies down with dogs, will rise up with fleas."

Barbara Mossman has held a wide range of positions in government and in advocacy organizations addressing environment issues. She has been a self-employed logtrucker, freelance writer, speaker, events coordinator, and community volunteer.

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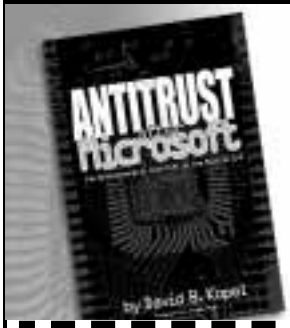

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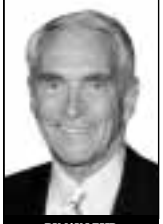

BY JAY LEHR

The real story behind Europe's support of Kyoto

When EPA head Christine Todd Whitman announced to the press in March that President George W. Bush did not intend to implement the Kyoto global warming protocol, Europe exploded with such venom one would have thought he had initiated a nuclear war.

In Europe, global warming has become a religion intended to humble the United States. Now Bush has blasphemed that religion. Until now, the green groups across the pond had reveled in their apparent ability to throw American industrial power into disarray over planned CO2 reductions.

It was never about science. It was always about bringing the U.S. to its knees.

Global warming was invented in 1988 to replace two earlier myths with the same intentions: nuclear winter and the advent of a new ice age (how soon they forget). Global warming would contain all the negative seeds the greens had been sowing for the past 30 years, including overpopulation, unsustainable growth, pollution, anti-corporate anti-Americanism, and Al Gore's view of human greed disturbing the ecological balance.

The battle between good and evil, science versus myth, is exhibited in the newest report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, to which Europe turns for its support. The report is actually two documents.

First, there is the summary, written by a handful of politically motivated panelists who fully ignore the text of the report. The more important document, the text of the report itself, describes barely a shred of certain scientific evidence for global warming.

"In sum, a strategy must recognize what is possible," notes the report's conclusion. "In climate research and modeling, we should recognize that we are dealing with a coupled non-linear system, and therefore that the prediction of a specific future climate is not possible."

Of course, the European media did not mention this incredibly significant point, choosing instead to focus entirely on the political summary—which bears no resemblance to the science that does exist in the report. Richard Lindzen, a meteorology professor at MIT and member of the IPCC, offers scathing commentary on the political summary elsewhere in this issue of E&CN.

Unlike the U.S., where the media does on occasion take a look at the seriously deficient science behind the flawed global warming theories, throughout Europe the media has ignored the tremendous uncertainty in all global warming data. Instead, they take global warming theory as an absolute prophecy of the future resulting from America's corporate energy-wasting greed.

"It was never about science. It was always about bringing the U.S. to its knees."

In the past few months, scientists have continued to pile questions upon the global warming theory in major science journals, including Nature, Climate Research, and the Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society. The latter concludes no global climate model can adequately express the relationship between CO2 and global temperature. The other papers call into question the role of all gas emissions, methods of recording temperatures over the oceans, and the role of the most significant greenhouse gas, water vapor.

The global warming theory is an empty suit, full of scientific flaws and political motivations. The idea that we can control the climate—which is governed by literally thousands of variables—by controlling a couple of earthly gas emissions is truly silly. But that is not the point.

The point of it all, from both the foreign and green perspectives, is to ride this crazy horse till it humbles the most successful governing system ever devised by man.

We are a free and capitalist nation, and thereby have achieved more wealth than our less-free socialist adversaries. In the wrong-headed decision not to emulate our system of government and economic freedom, they have chosen instead to attempt to bring us down to their less-productive level with the incessant drumbeat of the global warming ruse.

ARSENIC continued from page 1

affordable drinking water for the nation and is based on the best science."

EPA has asked the NAS to perform an expedited review of a range of three to 20 parts per billion for the new drinking water standard. The NAS is being asked to look at new studies regarding health effects that were received after the previous comment period closed, and to review EPA's risk analysis of arsenic.

The current arsenic standard, which allows 50 parts per billion in drinking water, has been in effect since 1942. In 1999, the NAS recommended the standard be lowered, warning it put Americans at an unacceptable risk of bladder cancer, lung cancer, and other skin, heart, and lung ailments. Long-term exposure has also been linked to skin and prostate cancer, anemia, nerve damage, and circulatory problems.

Whitman aides projected the new arsenic rule would call for a reduction of at least 60 percent from current allowable levels. The rule proposed by Clinton would have lowered allowable levels by 80 percent—to 10 parts per billion.

Reaction varies

The Bush administration's decision to seek a new scientific review was welcomed by representatives of the mining and wood-finishing industries, which had filed a lawsuit seeking to block the Clinton standard from taking effect on the ground it was not based on adequate science.

But many environmentalists said they regarded the delay as an indication the new administration was not serious about addressing the arsenic problem. Gregory Wetstone, of the Natural Resources Defense Council, accused Bush of selling out the nation's health to the mining industry.

"People die as a result of drinking contaminated drinking water with arsenic," Wetstone said. "It's really tragic to see this effort slowed down and maybe stopped, really at the behest of campaign contributors and mining companies, which is how this looks."

Gregg Easterbrook, in an April 30 *New Republic* article, offered a different perspective.

"Bush has not acted to 'allow more arsenic in drinking water,' as commentary has erroneously asserted, nor to force Americans to consume 'poisoned drinking water,' as a *New York Times* editorial claimed. All he's done is delay the date on which trace levels of arsenic are cut," noted Easterbrook.

Tom Bell, president and publisher of *U.S. Water News*, supported Bush's decision to postpone implementation of the standard. "Waiting another three or four years is reasonable while the administration takes a more thorough look at the arsenic standard. We have been fine all these years at the 50 ppb level," he said. "Taking a few more years to examine the situation is the prudent thing to do in light of the crushing financial blow Clinton's standard would have landed on America's municipal water systems."

Costs of compliance

"Many smaller water systems and the communities they serve may have to absorb additional costs to meet the new standard," Whitman noted in her April 18 statement. "We want to make sure those costs are fair and fully justified. A new standard will not be fully protective of the health of Americans unless we make the proper plans now to ensure that all drinking water systems will be able to meet it."

Despite Whitman's assurances, water industry officials were less than enthusiastic about the Bush administration's plan. Because the deadline for full compliance with the new rules will remain at 2006, water systems will have a full year less to comply than the Clinton proposal would have allowed.

"Some water systems will be squeezed and harmed because we lost a year," said Tom Curtis, Washington lobbyist for the Denver-based American Water Works Association. "The shortened phase-in period will harm the smallest systems more than any other entity."

Curtis noted it could cost as much as $4.5 billion in initial capital costs to build arsenic-treatment units and $20 million a year to operate the systems industrywide.

For more information...

WWW Additional information on the arsenic proposal is available from EPA's drinking water hotline at 800/426-4791; on EPA's Office of Water home page at **http://www.epa.gov/ow**; or at **http://www.epa.gov/safewater/arsenic.html.**

Information on such water-related issues as supply, water quality, policy and legislation, litigation and water rights, conservation, climate, and international water news is available on the U.S. Water News Web site at **http://www.uswaternews.com.**

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Every state and national elected official in the U.S., environment reporters at major newspapers, and people who have filled out subscription cards remain on the complimentary mailing list.

Financial restraints were the main reason we reduced circulation, but not the only reason. Our agreement to send three free issues to members of Citizens for a Sound Economy has run its course, so we are looking for new lists of people who might be interested in receiving the paper.

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